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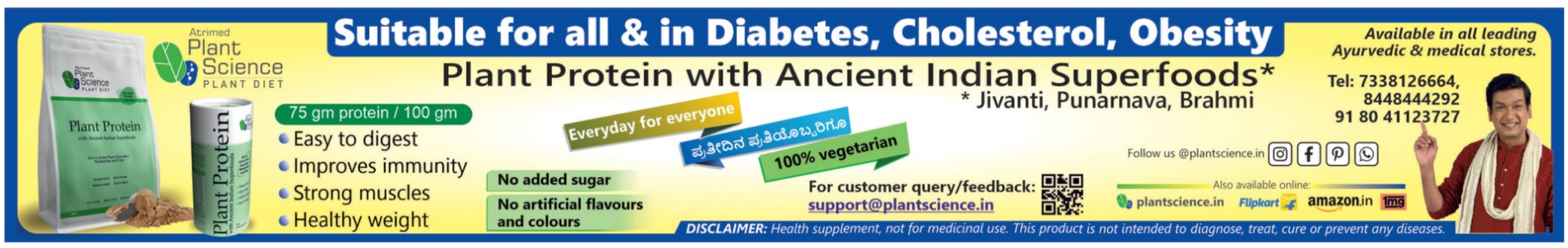

5 collegium-picked judges to be posted soon: Centre

Govt. response comes after SC flags delay in appointment to its Bench; Court gives Centre 10 days to clear pending transfer recommendations of HC judges and appointments of HC Chief Justices

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> It is happening... The five warrants of appointments are being issued... It goes to the President by evening. They will be issued
>
> **R. VENKATARAMANI,** Attorney General

The Supreme Court on Friday recorded a submission by Attorney General R. Venkataramani that warrants of appointment of five judges to the top court will likely be issued by February 5.

"It is happening... The five warrants of appointment are being issued... It goes to the President by evening," Mr. Venkataramani said.

The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, P.V. Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra for appointment to the top court on December 13, 2022.

They have been pending with the government for nearly two months.

The collegium had further proposed Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Rajesh Bindal and Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Aravind Kumar to the government for appointment as Supreme Court judges on January 31. The appointment of all seven would see the court function with its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

"The five recommendations were made in December, we are in February... You are saying, and we have faith in you, that the warrants will be issued. That 'it is happening'... 'When' is the next question," a Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and A.S. Oka asked the top law officer.

"By Sunday, they will be issued... it is happening," Mr. Venkataramani said, hesitant to be pinned down to a specific day.

"'Happening, happened, will happen'... When things have not been happening for years together, we do not want you to give a date, but tell us in how many days it will happen... two days, three days, four days? How many days should we record in our order?" Justice Kaul asked.

"With a sense of responsibility I am saying, the five warrants will be issued. It is happening," Mr. Venkataramani said.

The court further put the government on an ultimatum, giving it 10 days to clear Supreme Court Collegium recommendations on transfer of High Court judges and High Court appointments, especially pending appointments of High Court Chief Justices.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SC seeks records on ban on BBC documentary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the government to produce the original records on a decision to block the screening of a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary series titled 'India: The Modi Question'.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and M.M. Sundresh issued formal notice to the Union of India through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Twitter Communications India Private Limited and Google India Private Limited. The court listed the case in April.

It did not, however, issue any interim orders on the petitions filed by senior journalist N. Ram, MP Mahua Moitra and advocate Prashant Bhushan.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Banking sector stable and resilient, says RBI amid Adani imbroglio

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said as per its current assessment, the banking sector remained resilient and stable.

"Various parameters relating to capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, provision coverage and profitability are healthy," the central bank said in a statement on the health of Indian banking sector.

"Banks are also in compliance with the Large Exposure Framework (LEF) guidelines issued by the RBI," it added, explaining that it was making the statement in the backdrop of media reports expressing concern about the exposures of Indian banks to a business conglomerate.

While the RBI did not name the conglomerate, the recent rout in Adani Group shares and the group's decision to withdraw a ₹20,000 crore follow-on public offer a day after it had been fully subscribed, has triggered widespread concern about the group's level of indebtedness and its ability to meet its debt obligations.

"The RBI remains vigilant and continues to monitor the stability of the Indian banking sector," it said.

RELATED REPORTS » PAGES 12 & 16

Ministry reviews Adani Group's financial papers

NEW DELHI
The Corporate Affairs Ministry has started a preliminary review of Adani Group's financial statements and other regulatory submissions made over the years, two senior government officials told *Reuters* on Friday. REUTERS

NEARBY

Panel for ban on private practice by govt. doctors

BENGALURU
KARC-2 headed by T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, former Chief Secretary, recommended to the State government ban of private practice by government doctors of all departments.
» PAGE 8

Traffic police collect ₹5.61 cr.

BENGALURU
The initiative of the State government to provide a 50% rebate on pending e-challan traffic violation cases has turned out to be a super hit in the city. On day one of the rebate, Bengaluru Traffic Police collected ₹5.65 crore in 2.01 lakh cases. » PAGE 2

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGES 6 & 7

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Neither hero nor villain — just human

Victoria Azarenka has had to deal with accusations of gamesmanship, injury disruptions, form slumps, a messy custody battle and anxiety attacks over the course of her career. Now 33, the former No. 1 is learning to make peace with herself as she strives to rejoin the game's elite

Reuters
Associated Press

Four years ago – after losing in the first round of the Australian Open, the scene of her greatest triumphs – a despondent Victoria Azarenka vowed to fight her way out of a career-threatening slump and recapture the form that earned her two Grand Slam singles titles in Melbourne.

She wiped away tears as she contemplated the challenge, following several years disrupted by injury, a break for the birth of son Leo in 2016 and a messy custody battle.

"It's not easy to be positive but I don't have a choice," said Azarenka, who was then ranked just outside the top 50, having sunk as low as No. 208 two years earlier, in 2017.

She said she maintained a burning ambition to rejoin the game's elite and believed hard work was the only way to get there. "[This result is] not going to stop me. No matter how much it hurts, I have to learn from it. I've never really learned how to struggle before, so it's a lesson."

The Belarusian has embraced the struggle, learning to make peace with her imperfections. And while she hasn't tasted Grand Slam success again, the 33-year-old is in a far better place than she was during the dark days that followed her ascent to the top.

Hitting a rut

After a prosperous run of 10 Major tournaments between 2011 and 2013 – she won two Grand Slam crowns, finished runner-up twice, made the semifinals on three other occasions and got to World No. 1 – Azarenka hit a rut, in terms of results. Troubled by a foot injury among other niggles and dealing with personal challenges off the court, she missed eight of the next 25 Major events and did not make it past the quarterfinals when she did compete.

The tennis she produced at the 2020 US Open – she made a stirring run to the final – was the first indication that she was working things out. But it took two more seasons of mediocre results at the Slams before she rolled back the years in Melbourne last month, entering the last four.

Although she lost to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, Azarenka beat 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, tenth seed Madison Keys and in-form third seed Jessica Pegula in a strong campaign. She looked every inch the player who had won back-to-back in 2012 and 2013, capable of both dominating a rally and counter-punching.

> I feel like a tennis court — probably for everybody, but for me, especially — triggers a lot of fear, a lot of anxiety

She also demonstrated her physical and mental resilience in a bruising late-night encounter against China's Zhu Lin, which she described as "two hours and 40 minutes of complete pressure".

Azarenka made significant ranking gains thanks to her performance, moving up eight places to 16th. She will be just as pleased with her consistency over a Grand Slam fortnight: it suggested that making the final in New York in 2020 wasn't a one-off; her peak years may be behind her, but there is no reason why she can't harbour dreams of tasting Major success again.

Azarenka said changing her mindset and conquering her anxiety had paved the way for her return to the semifinals of the Australian Open.

"I was at the point where I couldn't find anything I felt good about myself, not even one sentence," she said. "From then, I tried to take it more simple. I started with not trying to be positive, just trying to be neutral, not to go negative. Accepting the anxiety that I have. Accepting the fear that I have. Working through it, step by step."

A better understanding

Azarenka was asked if going through the process of dealing with her anxiety helped her understand her problems in 2013 when she had to fend off accusations of gamesmanship after her semifinal win over Sloane Stephens at Melbourne Park. The Belarusian had taken an almost-10 minute medical timeout after blowing five match-points and denied the charge following her win, saying she needed treatment for a rib injury that had affected her breathing.

"It was one of the worst things I've ever gone through in my professional career," Azarenka said. "The way I was treated, the way I had to explain myself until 10:30 p.m. because people didn't want to believe me. There's sometimes an incredible desire for a villain and a hero story that has to be written. But we're not villains, we're not heroes, we're regular human beings that go through so many things. It took me 10 years to get over it. I'm finally over that."

Azarenka also spoke in Melbourne about how her professional and personal lives are connected. "I don't think that one goes without the other. I feel like a tennis court – probably for everybody, but for me, especially – triggers a lot of those fears, a lot of anxiety. It's kind of like an open canvas. At a high-pressure moment, weird emotions come on the court."

> There's sometimes an incredible desire for a villain and a hero story to be written. But we're not villains, we're not heroes, we're regular human beings that go through so many things

The Belarusian said she now has a process to cope when the nerves rear up. But it still is a work in progress; the key, she said, was not to become a prisoner of her past.

"It's really difficult to be brave and make the right choices in important moments when you feel anxious and hesitant," Azarenka said after her quarterfinal win. "When you achieve great success, sometimes you become conservative and hesitant to try new things. I was like, 'You know what, I'll be open-minded, try new things, keep my head down and work.'"

Baby steps

Now 33 and a self-described "obnoxious soccer mom" bidding to become only the fourth woman to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open era after having children, Azarenka isn't looking too far ahead. Her focus is on the present and her son Leo.

"Leo doesn't really care so much that I'm playing," she said. "He worries more about his football. He watches some matches, but he definitely wants his mom to be home. I'm towards the end of my career and I cannot say being focused on the result hasn't worked for me. But it also played big tricks for me mentally after you haven't achieved your expectations

"[That is] kind of a hard hole to recover from. I'm taking baby steps and really working on my intentions and what I want to do. I just didn't want to judge 'Can I do it?' or 'Can I not do it?' I just try to see what happens. That is a pretty big win for me."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	35	7,070	15
2	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,730	17
3	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	6,195	23
4	Casper Ruud	24	5,765	24
5	Andrey Rublev	25	4,200	25
6	Rafael Nadal	36	3,815	14
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,715	26
8	Taylor Fritz	25	3,410	22
9	Holger Rune	19	3,046	27
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,995	21
11	Cameron Norrie	27	2,760	24
12	Daniil Medvedev	26	2,750	21
13	Karen Khachanov	26	2,515	25
14	Alexander Zverev	25	2,425	18
15	Frances Tiafoe	25	2,305	21

Top Indians ▶

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 342 ▼ 3 spots

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 399 ▼ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	10,485	17
2	Aryna Sabalenka	24	6,100	20
3	Ons Jabeur	28	5,210	18
4	Jessica Pegula	28	5,000	17
5	Caroline Garcia	29	4,645	22
6	Coco Gauff	18	3,992	18
7	Maria Sakkari	27	3,811	22
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,380	23
9	Belinda Bencic	25	2,905	20
10	Elena Rybakina	23	2,815	22
11	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,740	21
12	Jelena Ostapenko	25	2,340	20
13	Petra Kvitova	32	2,281	19
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,195	24
15	Simona Halep	31	2,141	14

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 242 ▲ 16 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 258 ▲ 12 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	19	16	2	1	45	16	29	50
2	Man. City	20	14	3	3	53	20	33	45
3	Newcastle	20	10	9	1	33	11	22	39
4	Man. United	20	12	3	5	32	25	7	39
5	Tottenham	21	11	3	7	40	31	9	36
6	Brighton	19	9	4	6	37	27	10	31
7	Fulham	21	9	4	8	32	30	2	31
8	Brentford	20	7	9	4	32	28	4	30
9	Liverpool	19	8	5	6	34	25	9	29
10	Chelsea	20	8	5	7	22	21	1	29
11	Aston Villa	20	8	4	8	23	27	-4	28
12	Crystal Palace	20	6	6	8	18	27	-9	24
13	Nott. Forest	20	5	6	9	16	35	-19	21
14	Leicester City	20	5	3	12	28	35	-7	18
15	Leeds United	19	4	6	9	26	33	-7	18
16	West Ham	20	5	3	12	17	25	-8	18
17	Wolves	20	4	5	11	12	30	-18	17
18	Bournemouth	20	4	5	11	19	42	-23	17
19	Everton	20	3	6	11	15	28	-13	15
20	Southampton	20	4	3	13	17	35	-18	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	19	16	2	1	39	7	32	50
2	Real Madrid	19	14	3	2	40	16	24	45
3	Real Sociedad	19	12	3	4	28	18	10	39
4	Atletico Madrid	19	10	4	5	28	16	12	34
5	Villarreal	19	9	4	6	21	14	7	31
6	Real Betis	19	9	4	6	21	16	5	31
7	Rayo Vallecano	19	8	5	6	25	22	3	29
8	Osasuna	19	8	4	7	18	18	0	28
9	Athletic Bilbao	19	7	5	7	25	20	5	26
10	Real Mallorca	19	7	4	8	15	18	-3	25
11	Almeria	19	6	4	9	23	29	-6	22
12	Girona	19	5	6	8	26	29	-3	21
13	Sevilla	19	5	6	8	21	26	-5	21
14	Valencia	19	5	5	9	25	23	2	20
15	Espanyol	19	4	8	7	23	29	-6	20
16	Celta Vigo	19	5	5	9	18	29	-11	20
17	Real Valladolid	19	6	2	11	14	28	-14	20
18	Cadiz	19	4	7	8	14	29	-15	19
19	Getafe	19	4	5	10	16	26	-10	17
20	Elche	19	0	6	13	12	39	-27	6

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	20	17	2	1	48	15	33	53
2	Inter Milan	20	13	1	6	40	26	14	40
3	Lazio	20	11	5	4	36	16	20	38
4	Atalanta	20	11	5	4	39	23	16	38
5	AC Milan	20	11	5	4	37	29	8	38
6	Roma	20	11	4	5	26	18	8	37
7	Udinese	20	7	8	5	28	22	6	29
8	Torino	20	7	6	7	21	22	-1	27
9	Bologna	20	7	5	8	26	30	-4	26
10	Empoli	20	6	8	6	19	24	-5	26
11	Monza	20	7	4	9	25	28	-3	25
12	Fiorentina	20	6	6	8	22	26	-4	24
13	Juventus *	20	11	5	4	30	17	13	23
14	Salernitana	20	5	6	9	25	38	-13	21
15	Lecce	20	4	8	8	19	24	-5	20
16	Sassuolo	20	5	5	10	23	31	-8	20
17	Spezia	20	4	6	10	17	32	-15	18
18	Verona	20	3	4	13	18	32	-14	13
19	Sampdoria	20	2	3	15	8	34	-26	9
20	Cremonese	20	0	8	12	15	35	-20	8

** 15 points deducted after investigation into club's past transfer dealings*

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	18	10	7	1	52	16	36	37
2	Union Berlin	18	11	3	4	31	22	9	36
3	RB Leipzig	18	10	5	3	39	24	15	35
4	Dortmund	18	11	1	6	33	25	8	34
5	Freiburg	18	10	4	4	29	25	4	34
6	Eintracht	18	9	5	4	37	26	11	32
7	Wolfsburg	18	8	5	5	36	22	14	29
8	M'gladbach	18	7	4	7	34	29	5	25
9	Leverkusen	18	7	3	8	30	30	0	24
10	Werder	18	7	3	8	29	37	-8	24
11	Mainz	18	6	5	7	26	29	-3	23
12	Cologne	18	5	7	6	29	31	-2	22
13	Hoffenheim	18	5	4	9	26	31	-5	19
14	Augsburg	18	5	3	10	23	33	-10	18
15	Stuttgart	18	3	7	8	22	32	-10	16
16	Bochum	18	5	1	12	19	44	-25	16
17	Hertha Berlin	18	3	5	10	20	32	-12	14
18	Schalke	18	2	4	12	14	41	-27	10

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Marnus Labuschagne	929	937
2	Steve Smith	892	947
3	Babar Azam	862	882
4	Travis Head	841	841
5	Joe Root	826	923
6	Kane Williamson	810	919
7	Rishabh Pant	797	801
8	Usman Khawaja	770	779
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
10	Rohit Sharma	732	813

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Pat Cummins	878	914
2	James Anderson	835	903
3	Jasprit Bumrah	812	835
4	R. Ashwin	812	904
5	Ollie Robinson	805	805
6	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
7	Kagiso Rabada	776	902
8	Kyle Jamieson	772	836
9	Mitchell Starc	749	806
10	Josh Hazlewood	733	863

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	887	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	795	796
3	Quinton de Kock	750	813
4	David Warner	747	880
5	Imam-ul-Haq	740	815
6	Shubman Gill	734	734
7	Virat Kohli	727	911
8	Steve Smith	719	752
9	Rohit Sharma	719	885
10	Kane Williamson	700	799

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Mohammed Siraj	729	736
2	Josh Hazlewood	727	733
3	Trent Boult	708	775
4	Mitchell Starc	665	783
5	Rashid Khan	659	806
6	Adam Zampa	655	655
7	Shakib Al Hasan	652	717
8	Shaheen Afridi	641	688
9	Mustafizur Rahman	638	695
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	908	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	836	875
3	Devon Conway	788	831
4	Babar Azam	778	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	719	915
7	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
8	Aaron Finch	680	900
9	Glenn Phillips	676	703
10	Alex Hales	655	866

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	698	816
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	695	797
3	Adil Rashid	692	746
4	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
5	Sam Curran	688	688
6	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
9	Mitchell Santner	662	731
10	Anrich Nortje	659	695

INBRIEF

BWSSB to hold phone-in programme today

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a phone-in programme on Saturday. .

According to a BWSSB press release, its board Chairman N. Jayaram will address the complaints of consumers relating to water billing, manhole overflowing, meter reading, improper water supply, and sanitary issues. Those interested in participating in the programme may call Ph.: 080-22945119 between 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. They have to share their RR number details before raising a complaint, the release stated.

Lecture on 'Ethics, Earth, and the Anthropocene' today

The Department of English, St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Autonomous), Bengaluru, will be presenting the Fifth Edition of the Annual Republic Day Lecture series on Saturday.

A lecture on 'Ethics, Earth, and the Anthropocene' will be delivered by Shiv Visvanathan, a renowned public intellectual. The question and answer session will be moderated by N. Manu Chakravarthy, a noted writer and critic, the college said in a press release.

The venue of the event is Loyola Auditorium, college campus, No. 163, Brigade Road, Bengaluru. The programme will be held from 10.30 a.m.

Traffic police collect ₹5.61 crore and settle 2.01 lakh cases on day one of rebate window

Payment gateways hosted by government agencies crash; motorists throng traffic police stations; rebate to be in effect till February 11

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The initiative of the State government to provide a 50% rebate on pending e-challan traffic violation cases has turned out to be a super hit in the city. On day one of the rebate, which will be in effect till February 11, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) collected a whopping ₹5.65 crore in 2.01 lakh cases.

"The response to this one-time measure has been huge. On average, we got a hit almost every 16 nanoseconds," M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner, Traffic. BTP alone account for over 80% of the backlog cases across the State and over 2 crore cases pending compliance were expected to generate ₹500 crore, for which there is a 50% rebate now.

One-time measure: Traffic police personnel collecting fines from violators who turned up to pay, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

All traffic police stations in the city were overcrowded, the KarnatakaOne website, where payment was supposed to be made, and the BTP website and mobile app crashed. More than half of the payments today were made on PayTM app. While there was some criticism over the BTP tying up with PayTM, it was the digital payments platform which has been the most accessible for many to clear their dues with a rebate, data shows. "All payment gateways hosted by the government do not have the kind of wherewithal to host these many hits together," a senior officer said.

After PayTM where 1.04 lakh cases were resolved, the next avenue where motorists cleared their dues was at traffic police stations – 89,699 cases. "All these days even as we were chasing them, trying to enforce the penalty on them, they were elusive and did not pay up. Now they are chasing us today to clear their dues," quipped a traffic policeman.

Motorists flag concerns

Arvind, a Twitter user, said, "I cleared mine. Here is the thing. I had four pending ones. Two were legit and two were not. I was trying to fight it out to ensure the incorrect ones were removed but I could not. This offer was fair for me, so I went ahead and cleared without a lot of cribbing. Nice one BTP."

"It is a good resolution taken up by the government to settle old issues. But I have a concern and also a request here. There are thousands of violations wrongly registered by policemen. Why should the vehicle owner pay for it. This offer is kind of forcing such people to pay," said Sudhanva P. Joshi, a social media user.

'Don't violate norms'

M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), said that clearing fines notwithstanding, the aim of motorists should be not to commit traffic violations. "They should not violate traffic rules as booking cases and paying fines are not signs of a healthy society. If there are no violations, then we can concentrate better on traffic regulation and ensuring smooth flow of traffic on the road which is our main aim," he said.

Child dies en route to hospital as traffic slows down ambulance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An 18-month-old girl who had been injured in an accident in Tumakuru district died en route to NIMHANS in the city as the ambulance she was being rushed in got slowed down due to traffic on the Nelamangala-Gorguntepalya stretch on Thursday night.

Sources said the child, Huda Kausar, was being carried by her mother, Ruksana, on a bike which her father, Ahmed, was riding. A car rammed into the bike near Tiptur on Thursday evening, sources said.

While the couple escaped with minor injuries, the baby sustained head injuries. The couple first went to a hospital in Tiptur where the doctors referred them to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences hospital. Doctors in the Hassan hospital advised them to rush to NIMHANS in Bengaluru as the child's condition was critical.

The couple rushed from Hassan towards Bengaluru in an ambulance at 7.45 p.m. The ambulance driver, Madhusudhan, said he flashed messages on several WhatsApp groups of ambulance drivers on the route, who ensured he was given traffic clearance, including at toll booths, till he reached Nelamangala.

'No alternative road'

"Once we reached Nelamangala, there was no alternative road and there was traffic and we slowed down. The baby's condition got critical by the minute. So, as soon as we entered the city, we rushed to a private hospital on the highway. However, by then she had passed away and the doctors declared her dead. I wish there was no traffic as I entered the city," Mr. Madhusudhan told media persons, even as the couple broke down.

"We had no information that such an ambulance was making its way into the city. If we were informed of the emergency situation, we would have ensured a fast passage for the vehicle. We checked CCTV camera footage as well. There was no traffic jam and they have taken less than nine minutes from when they entered the city before reaching the hospital," said Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, DCP (Traffic West), Bengaluru.

AirAsia India to operate flights from KIA's T2 from Feb. 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One more airline will start flight service from the newly launched Terminal 2 (T2) at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). AirAsia India on Friday announced that the airline would be moving all domestic operations to T2 from February 15.

On January 15, Star Air became the first airline to begin flights from the new terminal. AirAsia India said a majority of departures would be facilitated via aerobridge.

43 daily departures

Bengaluru is the home base and largest hub for AirAsia India and the airline will operate 43 daily departures connecting Bengaluru to Delhi, Goa, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Pune, Jaipur, Lucknow, Ranchi, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Surat. The airline will also operate connecting flights from Bengaluru to Imphal and Srinagar on its network.

"The new terminal operations will serve as a catalyst for our Bengaluru operations, one of the largest with 43 daily departures," Aloke Singh, president, AirAsia India, said.

"BLR airport is seeing a strong rebound in passenger traffic as the number of passengers and flight movements have steadily climbed over the last few months. With the additional capacity that is available at T2, we are now well-equipped to handle this growth and serve as the new gateway to India," Hari Marar, MD & CEO, Bangalore International Airport Ltd., said.

The T2 is equipped to provide services to passengers with reduced mobility and special needs. To offer a comprehensive shopping and dining experience, T2 houses a host of shopping and dining options from an array of partners, catering to the requirements of guests and patrons alike. Less than 100 metres from the arrival gate, T2 has an upcoming multi-level parking lot and multimodal transport hub (MMTH) enabling passengers to switch between multiple modes of transport. Air-conditioned airport shuttle services operate round the clock to offer seamless connectivity to the airport from across the city.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. THUNUGUNTA SUNIL KUMAR,** Aged about 41 Years, S/o. Mr.Rama Mohana Rao, Residing at: No.20-1-75, Lambadi Street, Ongole, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh-523001 has enter in to a sale agreement with its owners **Mr.K.L.JAGADISH BABU** S/o. Late. K.K.Loganathan, and others family members Residing at K.R.Puram, Bangalore -560036 in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the **Site No.49,** Khatha No.49/70/3, Property No.70/3, Situated at **Devasandra Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Bangalore, Ward No.53, Measuring at East to West 45 feet and North to South 30 feet in total Measuring **1350 Square feet,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:-

East by : Road,
West by : Site No.50,
North by : Site No.38,
South by : Site No.51,

T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 03-02-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, our clients have proposed to purchase the Schedule property from its present owners **SRI.MANOJ PATEL AND SRI.DINESH PATEL** Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 2 **weeks** from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential Property bearing **Site No.329,** old Khatha No.569, present BBMP Katha No.2061/650/569/329, Sy.No.75, 2nd Stage of Kothanur Village, Situated at **Kothanur Village Dhakle, Kothanur Dinne, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently within the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 50 Feet, in all measuring **1500 Square Feet** and Bounded on **East By :** Site No.328, **West By :** Site No.330, **North By :** Road, **South By :** Private property, with about 10 Sq. on Ground Floor and 10 Sq. on First Floor constructed building thereon with brick walls, RCC roofing, vitrified Flooring, Honne wood doors and window shutters and having water, electricity and drainage connections to it.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main, 5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.
Mob: 9844155041, 9620579310.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI.
C. Mis. No.291/2022

BETWEEN:-
Smt. Narayanamma and others ...Petitioners
AND:-
The Tasildar Yelahanka Taluk ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client Narayanamma and others have filed the petition for death certificate of Lakshmaiah S/o Late Ramaiah who died on 30-04-1961 at his resident #88, Jaligera street, opposite Jaya Clinic, Bagaluru Village and post, Bangalore Urban District-562149 . If any of the parties who have objections or claims may dispute regarding the same could and same any other interested persons appear before the PRINCIPAL CIVIL ,JUDGE and J.M.F.0 at Devanahalli on date of hearing on 04-03-2023 at 11-00 AM in C.Mis No.291/2022.

By the order of Hon'ble Court
Sd/- Chief Ministarial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court
Devanahalli

Sd/- Advocate for Petitioner
Address for Service
Harsha. R, Advocate
Office at # 63, 1st Floor, Opposite Vinayakanagara Bus stop, IAF Post, Bangalore-63

Form No. CAA 2
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH
CA (CAA) NO. 50/BB/2022
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 AND 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION OF DRISHTI-SOFT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
AND
EXOTEL TECHCOM PRIVATE LIMITED

(a private limited Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, bearing corporate identification number of U72900KA2011PTC059065. The Registered office of the Company is situated at No-22, 2nd Floor, Commercial building, Kensington terrace, Kensington road, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560008)

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETINGS OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an Order dated the 24th January, 2023, the Bengaluru Bench of the Honorable National Company Law Tribunal at Bengaluru ("the Tribunal") has directed to convene separate meetings of the **equity shareholders and preference shareholders of EXOTEL TECHCOM PRIVATE LIMITED** to be held for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Scheme of Amalgamation proposed between DRISHTI-SOFT SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company) with EXOTEL TECHCOM PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferee Company) and their respective shareholders and creditors.

In pursuance of the said Order and as directed therein further notice is hereby given that a meeting of equity shareholders and preference shareholders of the Transferee Company will be held on **the 10th day of March, 2023 at 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM** respectively through video conferencing or other audio-visual means (OAVM). The equity shareholders and preference shareholders of the Transferee Company are requested to attend their respective meetings.

Copies of the Scheme of Amalgamation, notice of the meetings, the explanatory statement and other related documents can be provided free of charge within one day of requisition sent by the shareholders to Company on sameerkumar@ameyo.com and can also be obtained free of charge at the Registered office of the Company on all working days between 10:00 AM. to 4:00 PM up to the date of the Meetings.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Ms. Shristi Widge, Advocate, having address at the Estate, Level Four, 121 Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560042 as Chairperson of the said meetings including for any adjournment(s) thereof. The Hon'ble Tribunal has also appointed Shri. Arjun NA, PCS having address No. 52, Majeeth Street, Denkanikottai - 635107 as Scrutinizer for the meetings, including for any adjournment(s) thereof. The abovementioned Scheme of Amalgamation, if approved at the meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Sd/-
Ms. Shristi Widge
Chairperson appointed for the Meetings

Dated 03-02-2023
Place: Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Archana Kumari W/O, Prashant Ambastha R/o Amrutha Sarovar, B117, 89/1,1st Cross, Belathur Main Road, Kadugodi, B'luru-560067 have changed my name to Archana Ambastha for all purposes.

I Chutti Charan deep, s/o Chutti Narayanaiah residing at #71, 2nd floor, near Narayana E techno School, Laggere, Kempegowda layout, Bangalore 560058. I here by admit that my name is Chutti Charan Deep and my father name is Chutti Narayanaiah and mother name is Chutti Sujatha vide an affidavit dated 2/2/2023 sworn before the first class magistrate N R Kariya Naik.

I, SAKSHI, D/o Duniya Patil Singh, R/at No.12/11, IV Main, Vinayaka Nagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name from Sakshi to Sakshi Singh vide affidavit dated 30/01/2023 before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large calling upon owners of the following three de-registered aircraft lying at Chennai Airport to remove the same immediately off Chennai Airport:

1. VT-KAE(MSN-737)
2. VT-KAF(MSN-738)
3. VT-DKA(MSN-718) – M-ABFI

For more details, kindly visit the link:

https://www.aai.aero/sites/default/files/aaiupload/Public%20notice-3.pdf

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS COURT, MAYOHALL, BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. No. 25217 of 2022
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Regd. office at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. By its Manager:
Sri. Pramodh G,
S/o. Gurumallappa B.
...Plaintiff

VERSUS :
Mr. Binu Sharath Asokan,
Aged about 45 Years,
S/o. Mr. Asokan
R/at No. 6/2, Krishnamurthy Building, Muni Anjanappa Layout, Opp. KJC College, K. Narayanapura, Bangalore-560 077. **...Defendant**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT/S

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs.15,42,698/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) together with future interest at 11.49% p.a, you are hereby summoned to appear in the Court of the 28th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Court, Mayo Hall, Bangalore, in person or by pleader on the 14th day of March, 2022 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 18/01/2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN
ADVOCATE
No. 60, G-3, M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazar Street, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 51.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL, BANGALORE. (CCH-21)
O.S. No. 25615 of 2021
Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Regd. office at Mytree Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. By its Manager:
Sri. Pramodh G,
S/o. Gurumallappa B.
Defendant :
Mr. Antony J.K.
Aged about 42 years
S/o. Mr. John Kandathil Antony, Residing at No. 140, Opp. SLN Water Supply, Chelkere, Behind Royal Concorde School, Bangalore-043.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs. 13,72,086/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Eighty Six Only) together with future interest at 11.00%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 28th day of February, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on10/ 01/23

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN
Advocate for Plaintiff
No. 60, G-3, Ground Floor M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazar Street, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 051.

LEGAL NOTICE

FORM NO. 1-A
Summons/Notice for service by advertisement in newspaper (Order 5 Rule 20 of CPC)
IN THE COURT OF 28th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. No. 25368 of 2021
Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd ;
Having its Regd. office at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068
Reptd. By its Manager :
Sri. Pramod G.
S/o. Gurumallappa B.
Defendant :
Mr. Vyasateerth Joshi G.
Aged about 45 years,
S/o. Mr. Joshi Govindacharya
Residing at No. 727/A, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, E Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs. 4,12,827/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Seven Only) together with future interest at 13.25%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the14th day of March, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 24/01/2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore
Adv. For Plaintiff (Altaf Hasan)

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S. NO. 25134/2022
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Rohith Ali M.
Aged about 23 years,
S/o. Mr. Ishrath Ali M.
AND
Mr. Hanumantha Reddy B.
S/o. Mr. Basappa,
Aged About 30 years,
No.109/5/6, 2 Room 46,
Grave Bhavi Palya,
7th Cross, Bandepalya,
Bangalore- 560068

Summons to Defendants

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,01,501.90/- (Rupees Four Lakhs One Thousand Five Hundred One and paisa Ninety Only)** apart from future interest of 16.50% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25134/2022** and same is pending adjudication in CCH-21, Before IV Addl. City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 06 day of March, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 18 day of January, 2023.

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall Bengaluru- 560001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. No. 25091 of 2021
Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Regd. Office at Mytree Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068. Reptd. By its Debt Collection Manager :
Sri. Pramodh G.,
S/o. Gurumallappa B.
Defendant :
Mr. B. Satavahana Reddy,
S/o. Mr. Krishna Reddy Badireddy, Aged about 30 year, Residing at SLV Gents PG, BHB Colony, 7th Cross to Phoenix Mall, Mahadevapura, Near Ganesh Temple, Bangalore- 560048.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of **Rs.4,86,956/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Only)** together with future interest at 10.99% p.a, you are hereby summoned to appear in the court of the IV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, at Bangalore in person or by pleader on the 28 day of February, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 25/01/2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

Altaf Hasan Advocate
R. No. 474/1993,
No. 60, G-3, M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 560051.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. No. 25826/2022
BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Promod G., Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Mr. GIRISH KUMAR
S/o. Siva Sankar Raju
No. 7, NRI Layout, R.M. Nagar, Bangalore- 560016
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendants

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 15,95,367.24/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Ninty Five Thousand Seventy Three Hundred Sixty Seven and paisa Twenty Four Only)** apart from future interest of 11.25% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25826/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 21**, Before Addl. City Civil Court Mayo hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 04th day of March, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 24th day of January, 2023.

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayohall Bengaluru- 560001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES
New No. 09, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560005

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28th CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. No. 25679 of 2022
Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.,
Having its Regd. Office at Mytree Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068. Reptd. By its Debt Collection Manager :
Sri. Pramodh G.,
S/o. Gurumallappa B.
Defendant :
Mr. Murthy K
Aged about 50 years,
S/o. Mr. Krishne Gowda
Residing At No. 1414, 6th Cross, 3rd Main, Banashankari 6th Stage, 3rd Block, Bangalore- 560 062

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs.15,94,400/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Only) together with future interest at 12.75% p.a, you are hereby summoned to appear XXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bangalore in person or by pleader on the 07th day of March, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 24/01/2023.

Bengaluru.
Dated:

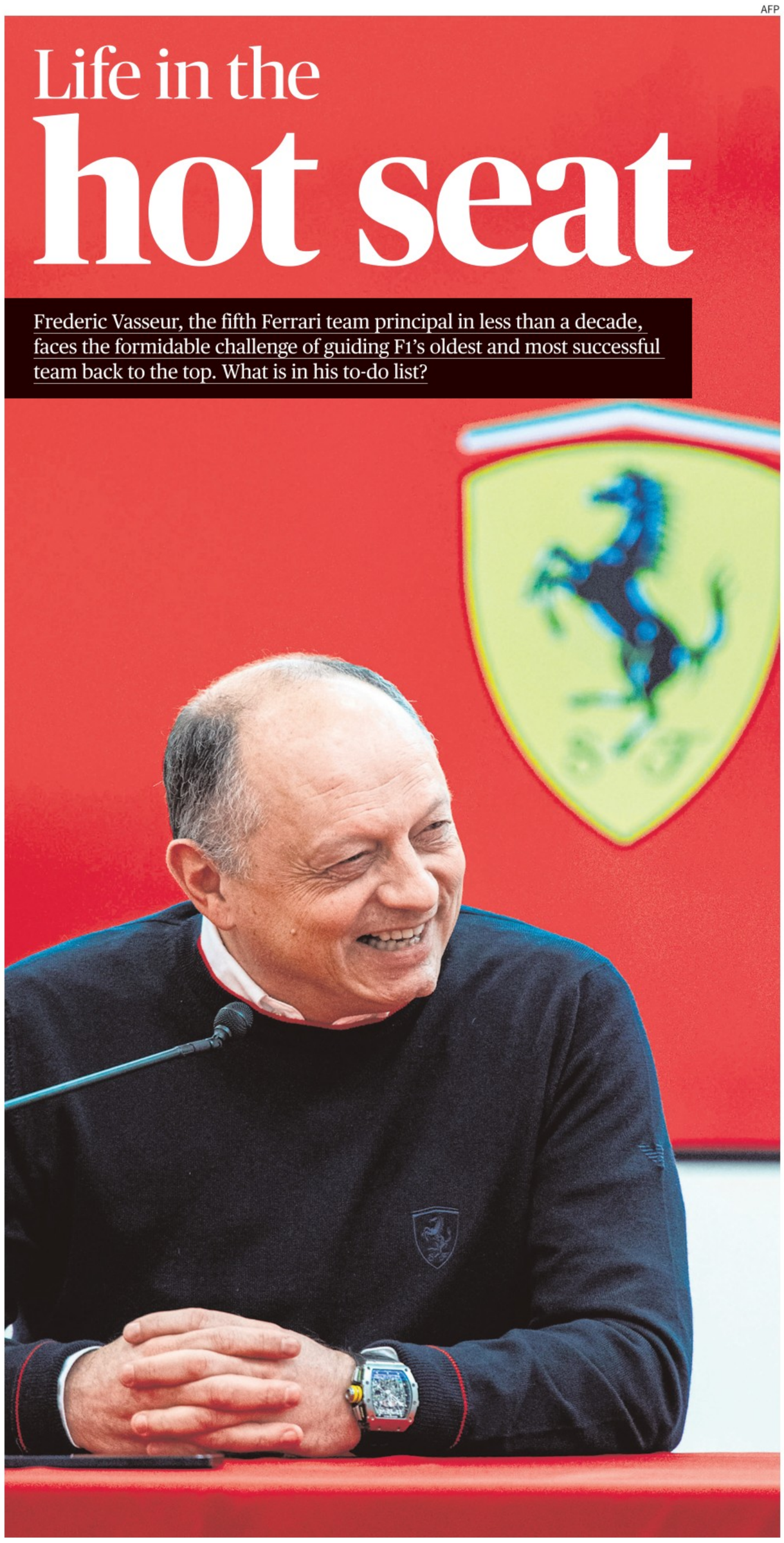
By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN
Advocate for Plaintiff
R. No. 474/1993,
No. 60, G-3, M.M. Complex, Tasker Town, Chikka Bazar Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 560051.

AFP

Life in the hot seat

Frederic Vasseur, the fifth Ferrari team principal in less than a decade, faces the formidable challenge of guiding F1's oldest and most successful team back to the top. What is in his to-do list?



Reuters
Agence France-Presse

Frederic Vasseur occupies one of the hottest seats in all of Formula One. It isn't situated in the cockpit of a speeding car, but in the nerve centre of Scuderia Ferrari's racing operations.

Vasseur started work at Maranello last month as the fifth Ferrari team principal in less than a decade, with the weight of history adding to a burden of expectation. The team has not won a title since 2008 and has been making some glaring mistakes, leaving fans increasingly frustrated.

Patience is in short supply among the tifosi, and Vasseur faces his biggest challenge at a team which seemingly has no shortage of drama and intrigue. Ferrari's turnover at the top contrasts starkly with champion Red Bull, led by Christian Horner since 2005, and Mercedes, which remains under Toto Wolff, who pulled the strings during its period of domination (2014-21).

It is the 54-year-old Vasseur's first job with one of F1's heavyweights, an honour he clearly recognises, describing Ferrari as "the very pinnacle of the racing world to me". Until recently, he held the position of CEO and team principal of Sauber Motorsport (currently Alfa Romeo F1 Team), having been there since 2017. Prior to this he was the team principal of Renault in 2016.

Filling a void

Vasseur, a trained engineer, fills the void left by the resignation of Mattia Binotto after Ferrari failed to mount a serious and sustained challenge to Red Bull, despite a promising start to the campaign. The team won four races in 2022 but fell away because of mechanical unreliability, strategy errors and driver mistakes. It ended the season second overall in the constructors' standings, but over 200 points behind Red Bull. Charles Leclerc finished second in the drivers' championship, but almost 150 points adrift of Max Verstappen.

Despite Ferrari being in a hurry to get back to the top after repeated false dawns, Vasseur is adopting a patient, methodical, forensic approach to the task. His immediate focus is more organisational – sharpening up the team's strategy, structure and reliability – than engineering.

He has started by reviewing last season's errors. "I'm trying to understand exactly what happened on every single mistake last year," he said. "And to try to know if it's a matter of decision, if it's a matter of organisation, or of communication."

Vasseur said strategy was not just about "the guy who is at the top of the iceberg", adding that it "would be arrogant" to shake up the technical organisation or try to change the culture after just a few weeks in the job. "We have discussions to try to understand how we could improve the system, what could be the weakness of the system," he explained. "But it's more continuous improvement than big steps or big changes that from my point of view wouldn't make sense.

Trust and demand

"I trust the guys in place and will try to do the best for them, put them in the best conditions to do the job. Then it will be time after a couple months to take action if it's not working."

But in what will be music to the ears of Ferrari fans, Vasseur said that the target was obvious and attainable. "When you are a top team, you can't have another target than the win," he said. "You can't start the season [saying] 'OK I will be happy with P2.' It would be a lack of ambition. I am convinced that Ferrari, and of course my experience is limited to these weeks, has everything to win."

While those are fighting words, Vasseur – only the second Frenchman to run the oldest and most successful team in the sport – knows the giant shoes of compatriot Jean Todt are yet to be filled. Todt presided over a golden age at the Scuderia, arriving at the Gestione Sportiva in 1993 as general manager and embarking on a transformation that led to a period of domination.

> We won't have a number one and number two. The organisation is crystal clear... if at one stage I will have to take action [team orders] for Carlos [Sainz] or for Charles [Leclerc] I will do it

Michael Schumacher won an unprecedented five crowns in a row from 2000-04 under Todt's leadership while Ferrari won seven constructors' championships between 1999 and the end of 2007, when Kimi Raikkonen took their last drivers' title. A significant part of Vasseur's job will involve working with his drivers in an attempt to build similarly successful relationships.

Indeed, there was speculation that it was his dynamic with Leclerc that helped get him the post. Leclerc, who raced for Vasseur at Sauber as well as in junior categories, is seen as a potential world champion in the right car. With his contract running out in 2024 and his relationship with Binotto allegedly breaking down, Ferrari reportedly wanted to do everything it could to hang on to a driver with the ability to deliver success. Vasseur's hiring, given his relationship with the Monegasque, was therefore seen as a move that worked on multiple levels.

But the Frenchman played down speculation that Leclerc would be favoured by hailing Carlos Sainz as a winner, revealing also that he twice tried to sign the Spaniard for his previous F1 teams. "The target is to win for Ferrari," he said. "We won't have a number one and number two. The organisation is crystal clear that they have to do their job and if at one stage I will have to take action for Carlos or for Charles I will do it."

Ferrari's priorities

Leclerc won three races last year and took nine pole positions, while Sainz claimed his first F1 win at the British Grand Prix and finished the season fifth overall. During his first interaction with the press, Vasseur was immediately asked about both drivers' contract situations (Sainz's also ends in 2024), but the Ferrari team boss said it was "not the first priority at the moment".

The first priority, he said, was to start the season well – something a rumour originating in Italy suggested had already happened. The claim was that Ferrari had 'released' an extra 30bhp from its power unit during the winter break, but Vasseur denied the story. "The numbers, I don't know where the numbers are coming from, but it's just a joke," he said.

"We made some steps but it is just about reliability. I think the performance of the engine [last season] was not an issue at all. The issue was the reliability, and the first target is to fix it. So far it looks OK, but the reality on the track is a different aspect."

That reality will soon be known: the 2023 car will be launched on February 14 and the rubber will hit the tarmac on February 23 in Bahrain's first session of pre-season testing. Ferrari's Vasseur era will officially begin on March 5 with the Bahrain Grand Prix. Whatever happens, in true Ferrari style, it's likely to make for compelling watching.

"What is quite obvious in Italy is that the passion around the team is everywhere and a bit more than in every single other team," said Vasseur. "But at the end of the day, I think we have to take the positive [aspect] of this. I think it's an advantage."

> You can't start the season [saying] 'OK I will be happy with P2.' It would be a lack of ambition. I am convinced that Ferrari has everything to win

GAME THEORY

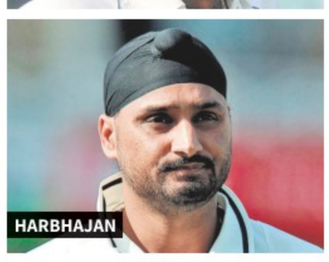
Border-Gavaskar titans

With the Border-Gavaskar Trophy set to begin next week, we take a look at the top performers in the marquee series since its inception in 1996 (India-Australia Test series prior to this were not played for this trophy)

TENDULKAR

PONTING

KUMBLE


HARBHAJAN

MOST RUNS (TOP 10)

Batter	Tests	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100s
Sachin Tendulkar	34	65	**3,262**	241*	56.24	9
Ricky Ponting	29	51	**2,555**	257	54.36	8
V.V.S. Laxman	29	54	**2,434**	281	49.67	6
Rahul Dravid	32	60	**2,143**	233	39.68	2
Michael Clarke	22	40	**2,049**	329*	53.92	7
Cheteshwar Pujara	20	37	**1,893**	204	54.08	5
Matthew Hayden	18	35	**1,888**	203	59.00	6
Steve Smith	14	28	**1,742**	192	72.58	8
Virender Sehwag	22	43	**1,738**	195	41.38	3
Virat Kohli	20	36	**1,682**	169	48.05	7

MOST WICKETS (TOP 10)

Bowler	Mat	Inns	Wkts	Ave	SR	5w
Anil Kumble	20	38	**111**	30.32	58.7	10
Harbhajan Singh	18	35	**95**	29.95	61.1	7
Nathan Lyon	22	41	**94**	34.75	66.3	7
R. Ashwin	18	34	**89**	31.48	69.2	5
Ravindra Jadeja	12	22	**63**	18.85	50.7	3
Zaheer Khan	19	34	**61**	35.59	63.2	3
Ishant Sharma	25	46	**59**	42.20	80.1	0
Brett Lee	12	24	**53**	31.98	57.1	2
Glenn McGrath	11	22	**51**	18.64	50.1	2
Josh Hazlewood	15	28	**51**	26.94	63.6	4

PICTURE THIS

SEAN M. HAFFEY/GETTY IMAGES

Sea ball, hit ball

Germany's Stephan Jaeger — in the bottom right corner, in case you didn't spot him at once — plays his shot from the 16th tee of the North Course during the Farmers Insurance Open at the Torrey Pines Golf Course last week.

The picturesque, wind-swept course, which sits on the coastal cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, was built on the site of a US Army installation in San Diego during World War II.

The course derives its name from the Torrey pine, a rare, critically endangered tree that reportedly grows in the wild only along this stretch of coastline and on Santa Rosa island.

The North Course, where Jaeger is teeing off, is one of two 18-hole courses within the Torrey Pines facility, the other being the South Course, which has hosted two US Opens.

The North is rated less challenging than the South, but both are used in the Farmers Insurance Open, which has been staged at Torrey Pines since the late 1960s. The tournament's first 36 holes are split between the North and the South, with the final 36 being played on the South.

Heavy traffic shouldn't delay Ballari Road widening work: HC to BBMP

Court tells the civic body to explore various means to see that the work gets an appropriate speed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Heavy traffic on Ballari Road should not become a cause for inordinate delay in completing the ongoing works of widening the stretch between Mehkri Circle and Cauvery theatre junction, the High Court of Karnataka said on Friday.

"The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike should explore various means to see that road-widening work gets an appropriate pace and speed and not delayed on some excuse or some lethargy on the part of some officers and the agencies," the court observed.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the direction while taking note of the progress made by the BBMP and other authorities to widen the congested stretches of Ballari Road in a phased manner.

The Bench issued the directions while hearing a PIL petition filed in 2020 by Samarpana, a cultural and social organisation, seeking direction to widen the road stretch to ease vehicular movement.

Earlier, the advocate for the petitioner pointed out that the widening work is not progressing at the expected pace. However, the advocate for the BBMP said that heavy traffic on the road impacts the pace of works.

Meanwhile, the Bench also said that senior officers of the BBMP should look into the progress of the widening work and take appropriate care so that the work is not delayed for some unjustifiable reason or some other excuse, including heavy traffic.

The BBMP has also been directed to submit a progress report of the ongoing work, including the manner of periodical supervision and check by a responsible senior officer.

IISc professor selected as AAAS Fellow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Raghavendra Gadagkar, an evolutionary biologist at the IISc, has been selected as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow. Each year, the Council of AAAS elects members whose efforts on behalf of advancement of science, or its applications, are scientifically or socially distinguished.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 04	
RISE	06:45 SET 18:22
RISE	17:18 SET 05:44
SUNDAY, FEB. 05	
RISE	06:45 SET 18:22
RISE	18:09 SET 06:29
MONDAY, FEB. 06	
RISE	06:45 SET 18:22
RISE	18:58 SET 07:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	31	14
Bengaluru	26	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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HC fiat to govt. on caste, income certificates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Don't repeat the mistake of considering such certificates of spouse in case of married women during recruitment'

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government not to repeat the mistake of considering the caste and income certificates of the spouse in the case of married women during recruitment when the Supreme Court has already clarified that these certificates of parents are valid in law and not those of the spouse.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while allowing the petitions filed by Akshata Chougale and several others. The petitioners, who are married women, had questioned the action of the selecting authority in treating them under the general category in the provisional selection list notified for the posts of graduate primary teacher for classes VI to VIII in government and aided institutions.

The selecting authority had said the petitioners would have to produce the caste and income certificates of their spouse and not of their parents as per the circular issued in 1986 by the government in this regard. The petitioners had submitted the caste and income certificates of their parents as issued by the competent authority.

The court said the selecting authority (Deputy Directors of Public Instruction) had no jurisdiction to interpret the caste and income certificates issued by the competent authorities to the petitioners.

"It is rather surprising that the State is time and again repeating the very same mistake and driving the applicants to knock on the doors of this court despite the declaration of law by the apex court and that of this court, by clinging on to a Government Order dated December 12, 1986, which is on the face of it unsustainable," the High Court said.

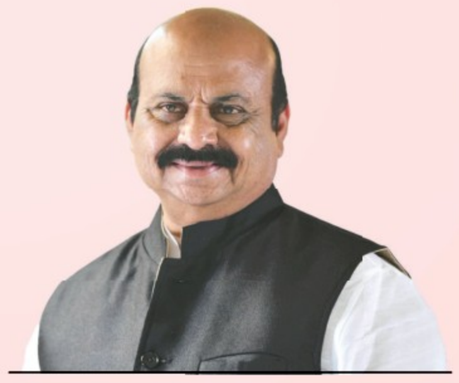
Justice M. Nagaprasanna pointed out that the government's 1986 circular cannot be valid when the apex court as well as the High Court have already clarified the law on considering caste and income certificates of parents and not of spouse.

The State government will have to direct the selecting authorities to act in tune with law and not contrary to law, and it is high time the government set the house in order and refrain from generating unnecessary litigation, the High Court said.

The court directed the State government to treat the petitioner-applicants as belonging to the categories to which they had applied for based on the caste and the income certificates submitted by them and not to treat them as candidates belonging to the general category.

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Department of Health and Family Welfare


Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

"Uniting our voices and taking action"

WORLD CANCER AWARENESS DAY 4th February, 2023

Let's make 2023 a historic year for Cancer prevention.

Risk factors for Cancer
- High body mass index
- Low fruit and vegetable intake
- Lack of physical activity
- Tobacco and Alcohol use
- Hepatitis and HPV virus
- Other Factors: Ultraviolet radiation, urban air pollution, indoor smoke from household use of solid fuels

Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.

70% of deaths occur in low and middle income countries.

Organs that cause cancer in Men
Lung, Mouth, Stomach and Esophagus

Organs that cause cancer in Women
Breast, Cervix and Ovary

To prevent Cancer
- Avoidance of the risk factors
- Vaccinate against HPV and Hepatitis B virus
- Preventing harm from X-rays in the medical field
- Avoid exposure to radiation as much as possible

Early detection can reduce the burden of disease
- Creating awareness and care for the disease
- Early detection and timely treatment
- Obtaining treatment availability

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education, Dr. K. Sudhakar attending health department programme.

"To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures." - is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country, enshrined in the Constitution.

Wear Mask · Follow Physical Distancing · Maintain Hand Hygiene · Avoid Crowded Places · Don't spit in public places · Get yourself voluntarily vaccinated

Your Health, Our Responsibility.

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Aero India: Lockheed to showcase F-21, host of other products

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

U.S. aerospace company Lockheed Martin will showcase its advanced defence capabilities and solutions at the Aero India scheduled to take place between February 13 and 17.

The company said its exhibit this year would showcase its most innovative capabilities on offer to the Indian Armed Forces, including the F-21 fighter aircraft, C-130J transport aircraft, MH-60R Romeo multi-mission helicopter, JAVELIN Weapon System, and S-92 multirole helicopter.

"Our participation will be focused on engaging with our customers while creating opportunities for the local industry to feed into the global supply chain and manufacture in India, for India and for the world," said William (Bill) Blair, chief executive, Lockheed Martin India Pvt. Ltd.

The prime attraction at the Lockheed Martin booth will be the F-21 fighter aircraft cockpit demonstrator that will be available for defence and aerospace customers and partners to fly the jet for themselves, experiencing its unmatched performance.

The F-21 fighter aircraft, which is on offer to the Indian Air Force (IAF) for the Multirole Fighter Aircraft competition, is configured with the latest sensors and mission avionic systems that couple onboard and off-board data information into an effective, easy to manage combat situation display.

The Indian Navy's most recent rotary wing acquisition, MH-60R Romeo helicopter, will occupy a prominent place at Lockheed Martin's Aero India display. The first three MH-60R helicopters were delivered to India in 2021 and are being utilised to train Indian pilots and crew members in the U.S.

In July/August 2022, the Indian Navy accepted the delivery of another three helicopters at Kochi International Airport and they will be initially based at Naval Air Station INS Garuda in Kochi. A total of 24 MH-60Rs will be delivered in the country over the next few years.

The world's most versatile one-man portable and platform-employed anti-tank precision weapon system, JAVELIN, also will be part of Lockheed Martin's exhibit at Aero India.

'Manthan' on Feb. 15

'Manthan 2023', the annual defence innovation event, will be the flagship technology showcase event at Aero India 2023. The Manthan platform will bring the leading innovators, start-ups, MSMEs, incubators, academia, and investors from defence and aerospace ecosystem under one roof and will be held on February 15. The Ministry of Defence said Manthan will have many firsts, including launch of challenges on Cyber Security, and establishment of iDEX Investor Hub.

Railway projects in Karnataka get ₹7,561 crore Budget outlay

As many as 51 stations in the State will be developed under Amrit Bharat scheme, says Railway Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which is headed for the Assembly elections later this year, has received a budget outlay of ₹7,561 crore for railway projects. The projects that were sanctioned include new rail lines being executed by South Western Railway (SWR) for which ₹2,423 crore has been allocated and ₹1,529 crore has been provided for track-doubling projects.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said Karnataka had received a "record allocation". He said the allocation made was nine times higher than that made during 2009-14 (annual outlay of ₹835 crore). As many as 51 stations in the State would be developed under Amrit Bharat scheme. About future ventures of the Railways, the Minister said Vande Bharath trains would be tested to provide local commute between two cities and a significant technological jump would be achieved by developing and testing Hydrogen-powered trains. In the next financial year, 300 trains would be replaced with new sets of trains.

One more Vande Bharat

The SWR is gearing up to introduce the first intra-State Vande Bharat train service between Hubballi and Bengaluru. About the status of the project, Sanjeev Kishore, general manager, SWR, said that in doubling and electrification projects, out of 469 km, doubling is pending only for a distance of 25 km (from Saunshi and South Hubballi) and this would be completed by February. The electrification of the entire line was likely to be completed by March.

"It is a challenging task, many agencies are involved in the projects. There is absolutely no dearth of funds and support has been received from all the stakeholders," the official said.

To a question on measures taken to operate Vande Bharat Express train operated between Chennai and Mysuru via Bengaluru at a higher speed (the train presently runs at a speed comparable to that of Shatabdi Express), Mr. Kishore said they had an action plan to run the train at 125 kmph. By June we should be able to upgrade it substantially. With that the travel time is likely to be reduced by 10 to 20 minutes," he said.

Island platforms

Under Gati Shakti Unit, the Bengaluru Division will complete works related to two island platforms at Bengaluru Cantonment Station. This will give a fillip to run suburban trains in the city limits.

The official said that Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal helped in de-congesting KSR Bengaluru and operationalising two island platforms at Cantonment station would only help further. The quadrupling work between Cantonment and Whitefield, which was being implemented in two phases, would be completed by next year. On developing better road connectivity to Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Singh said the SWR had given an in-principle approval to the rotary flyover proposed by the BBMP. To a question on complaints about not getting South Indian food, the Railway Minister said a policy decision had been taken to serve local cuisine on trains. "In the next 12 to 18 months, you will see a huge change in the catering system in the Railways," he said.

A file photo of Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express train at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru.

Focus on Karnataka

Total Budget outlay for rail projects in State **₹7,561 crore**

Budget outlay for SWR **₹9,200 crore**

For new lines **₹2,423 crore**

For doubling **₹1,529 crore**

For safety works **₹242 crore**

TRACK DOUBLING

Line	Project cost (in ₹ crore)
Gadag–Hotgi	170
Penukonda–Dharmavaram	120
Baiyappanahalli–Hosur	100
Yeshwantpur–Channasandra	85
Londa–Miraj	200
Hubballi–Chikkajajur	150
Bengaluru Cantonment–Whitefield (quadrupling)	250
Hosapete–Tinaighat–Vasco da Gama	400

> Karnataka has received a record allocation. The allocation made is nine times higher than that made during 2009-14 (annual outlay of ₹835 crore).
>
> **ASHWINI VAISHNAW,** Railway Minister

NEW LINES (COST IN ₹ CRORE)

- Gadag (Talkal)–Wadi: **350 (₹50 crore through GoK)**
- Ginigera–Raichur: **300**
- Tumakuru–Davangere (via Chitradurga): **420.85 (₹200 crore through GoK)**
- Tumakuru–Rayadurga (via Kalyanadurga): **350**
- Bagalkot–Kudachi: **360 (₹150 through GoK)**
- Shivamogga–Shikaripur–Ranebennur: **150**
- Belagavi–Dharwad (via Kittur): **10**
- Marikuppam–Kuppam: **200**
- Kadur–Chikkamagaluru–Hassan: **145**
- Malugur–Palasamudram: **20**

Skeletal remains of woman who went missing six months ago found

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hulimavu police, tipped off by a man, discovered the skeletal remains of a woman hanging from a tree in a 15-acre forested plot of land on Thursday night. "The forested area is usually not frequented by people. A man who went there on Thursday to attend nature's call found some bones and alerted us. We found the skeletal remains of an individual hanging from a tree," said C.K. Baba, DCP (South East).

As the police went about trying to identify the deceased, they checked all missing person complaints registered in Hulimavu and surrounding police stations. "It was evident that it was a woman since the jewellery the deceased was wearing was still around the neck. As we checked with the family members of those reported missing recently, we established the identity as Pushpa Dhami, 22, hailing from Nepal. She was working here as a labourer and was reported missing in July 2022," Mr. Baba said. Pushpa was married to Kabir Dhami and the couple had a child. The couple had marital disputes. She went missing in July 2022 after a fight, and has now been found dead, the police said.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

'Properly record medical certification of cause of death'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To address the huge gap between deaths registered and deaths medically certified, the State Health Department has directed all District Health Officers (DHOs) to properly and clearly mention the medical cause of death in Form 4 and Form 4A used for medical certification of cause of deaths.

Statistical analysis of causes of death forms an important mortality database, which is the backbone of national health policy and planning.

Circular

In a circular issued on February 2, Health Commissioner Randeep D. said that 2,20,808 deaths that happened in 2021 have been recorded as "others/not elsewhere classified" on the births and deaths registration portal.

Matter of concern

"Due to this, it is not possible to understand the reasons for the increasing deaths in the districts and initiate surveillance measures. The lack of completeness and the quality of information on the cause of death in medically certified deaths is a matter of concern," the circular stated. "The DHOs should direct all government and private hospitals in their jurisdiction to properly record the medical certification of cause of death in the prescribed Form 4 and Form 4A on the portal," the circular stated

Cancer incidence was higher among women in 2022; breast cancer contributed 29.5%

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The incidence of cancer in Karnataka was higher among women in 2022. A total of 47,806 women were diagnosed with cancer last year as opposed to 42,543 men, according to data from the National Cancer Registry Programme report.

Breast cancer contributed 29.5% of the total burden in females, the highest among all cancers in Karnataka. This was followed by cancers of the cervix (10%) and ovary (5.9%). The leading sites of cancers in males were lung (12.05%), mouth (6.47%), and prostate (6.01%).

In Bengaluru

In Bengaluru, prostate, colon, liver, brain, tongue, lung, lymphoma, mouth, esophagus, and stomach cancers are increasing significantly among men. Apart from breast cancer, corpus uteri, lung, colon, ovary, thyroid and stomach cancers are significantly increasing in women in the city. In both genders, colorectal cancers are on the rise, according to doctors from the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day.

Breast cancer specialist C. Ramachandra, who is the former director of Kidwai institute, said annually on average there is a 1% increase in cancer cases in both males and females in Karnataka. A similar trend is observed in other metropolitan cities in India, he said.

"The fact that more young women are being diagnosed with breast cancer is a worrisome trend. We have seen a decline in mouth and cervical cancers in Bengaluru. However, colorectal cancer that was earlier seen in late 40s is now being diagnosed in younger people," Dr. Ramachandra said.

Risk factors

Although the exact risk factors for breast cancer are still not known, sedentary lifestyles, excessive consumption of fast food and aerated drinks, an increase in smoking and alcohol consumption among women and menstrual factors (early age at menarche and late age at menopause) are responsible, he said.

Besides, obesity, weight gain during adulthood, lack of physical exercise, and reproductive factors (nulliparity, late childbearing) and exogenous hormone factors (use of oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy) are also the common risk factors, he said.

Around 7% rise by 2025

New cancer cases in Karnataka are likely to increase to 97,130 cases by 2025 – nearly 7% increase from the incidence of 90,349 cases in 2022 based on the current trends. In 2021, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru, had projected an 11% rise in new cancer cases in Karnataka by 2025. These projections were made in 'The Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of the Hospital-Based Cancer Registries, 2021' prepared by NCDIR.

Preventable measures

Attributing the rise in cancer incidence among women to lifestyle changes, NCDIR director Prashant Mathur told *The Hindu* that preventable measures need to be taken for reducing the future burden of cancer.

A paper titled 'Cancer incidence estimates for 2022 and projection for 2025: Result from National Cancer Registry Programme, India' authored by a team of researchers from the NCDIR led by Dr. Mathur has been recently published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

A file photo of people undergoing cancer detection test in a mobile unit in Bengaluru. February 4 is observed as World Cancer Day.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Navkis Educational Centre basks in the success of its student

Karthikeyan Nair, a grade X student of Navkis Educational Centre, Bangalore has brought laurels for himself in the sport of swimming.

Fueled by his passion at the tender age of 7, Nair has been awarded innumerable awards since then. His recent feat includes winning the individual champion trophy at the CBSE National Swim Meet held at Rajkot from 21st January 2023 to 24th January 2023, whilst also bagging 5 gold medals at the tournament.

Apart from these, 2022-23 has been a golden year for him. He has won 1 gold and 3 silver medals in the National Aquatic Championship. He bagged the first prize in the 100m Butterfly stroke and 200m freestyle along with second prize in the 100m freestyle swimming competition held by Dasara Kreedakoota, Bengaluru City Division. In addition to this, the young swimmer had also participated in the prestigious Dussehra CM Cup 2022 and won 2 Gold and 1 silver alongside being awarded the Individual Championship Trophy in swimming.

Seshadripuram Group of Institutions celebrates Republic Day

Celebrating 74 years of Indian sovereignty, the Seshadripuram Group of Institutions organised a Republic Day program on 26th Jan 2023 at its Trust Office Campus in Seshadripuram.

The event was graced by Pramila Naidu, Chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Women, as the chief guest. President of the Seshadripuram Educational Trust, N. R Panditharadhya, along with Honorary General Secretary Nadoja, accompanied by Dr Wooday P Krishna and many other trustees were present during the occasion. Many of the group's institutions alongside their respective heads also attended the program. The event commenced with the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Furthermore, a parade and march past by the NCC students were added attractions. Meanwhile, cultural programmes were also conducted by participating institutions.

The chief guest addressed the gathering by discussing the duties and responsibilities of the youth of the nation. In addition to this, N.R Panditharadhya, also highlighted the necessity of inculcating moral and ethical values in students alongside academics, as the need of the hour.

REVA Business School Organises Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Anand Ranganathan

As a part of REVA University's RBS Distinguished Lecture Series Programme, author and editor Anand Ranganathan delivered a talk on the topic 'Scientific approach in doing business and politics in the national interest' at the university campus on 24 January 2023.

Ranganathan debunked various scientific theories, including Darwin's Evolution Theory, whilst highlighting its rising necessity in the current times.

Furthermore, he also discussed India's role in the global world, regarding the country's presidency at the G20 summit, and the importance of engaging with topics of national interest.

"As Indians, we should have a concern about the nation and we should focus on economic welfare," said Ranganathan

Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University, expressed his gratitude to the author for discussing essential aspects of the current society with the audience. The session concluded with a question and answer session wherein the speaker tended to the queries from the audience which included students, researchers, and faculty.

NMIT commemorates the 74th Republic Day

Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT) celebrated the 74th Republic day on 26th January 2023. The program was attended by P.B. Kotur, Author, Academician and Head of Talent Transformation at Wipro as the chief guest.

Kotur shed light on the evolution of the country from 1947. He also discussed the role of information technology (IT) in shaping the image of the country in front of the world. "Our IT people are working everywhere. Soon we will become the largest economy in the world.

Information Technology has impacted all fields. India is a leader today in digital payments by clocking more than 1500 billion transactions within a year. No other countries are equipped yet. 40 million people have moved from the below poverty line. Responsibility & accountability are essential," said Kotur.

Furthermore, diverse cultural programmes were performed by the students. The event was presided over by Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust. Dr H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT along with Dr Rajesh Nandalike, Professor and NCC Officer, NMIT also attended the event alongside staff and students.

Alliance University hosts introductory Tedx talk in Bengaluru

Aiming to blur lines between innumerable disciplines, Alliance University hosted the introductory session of TedxAllianceUniversity on the theme 'Beyond Boundaries' at their Bengaluru central campus on January 21, 2023.

Distinguished speakers from diverse fields including screenwriter Saiwyn Quadras and LGBTQ+ activist-cum-diversity and inclusion leader Ankita Mehra among the many, shared extraordinary stories that expressed myriad emotions, achievements and the commitment to transform lives. The speakers majorly spoke on inclusion and diversity, women in leadership roles and building a resilient workforce through skill-based education. The event brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and invitees from disciplines of business, law, engineering, liberal arts and beyond. Alongside, musical performances by the Alliance University student band, accompanied by networking meet and event day lunch were added attractions of the event.

KIOCL gets clearance to mine iron, manganese ore in Ballari district

The company believes the area has the potential to yield at least 30 million tonnes of ore during the lease period

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

In addition, forest clearance has been given to divert another 13.5761 hectares for constructing utility facilities. FILE PHOTO

KIOCL Limited, a Union government undertaking, which was forced to stop magnetite iron ore concentrate mining at its captive mines in Kudremukh hill range on the Western Ghats in January 2006 following a Supreme Court order, has been given the go-ahead for its mining project in Ballari district. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change gave the final forest clearance for KIOCL's iron and manganese ore mining project in the Devadari hill range in Ballari district.

Of the 470.40 hectares of notified area in the Swamimalai block forest in Sandur taluk of Ballari district, the Ministry has given permission (stage 2 final forest clearance) for 388 hectares of forest land for mining iron ore and manganese ore. In addition, forest clearance has been given to divert another 13.5761 hectares for constructing utility facilities, such as conveyor corridor and approach roads and laying power transmission and water lines.

Permission for diverting the total 401.5761 hectares for the proposed project was given on December 16, 2022 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, according to T. Saminathan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of KIOCL Limited.

Addressing media persons in Mangaluru on Friday, Mr. Saminathan said, "The company executed mining lease deed of Devadari Iron Ore Mine with the Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka, on January 2, 2023 for 388 hectares for a period of 50 years."

The company registered the lease deed in the office of the sub-registrar, Sandur taluk, on January 18, 2023, and paid ₹329.17 crore towards stamp duty and registration charges.

Mr. Saminathan said that there is potential to mine between 30 million tonnes and 33 million tonnes of ore in the allotted area during the lease period.

Lifeline for KIOCL

"Devadari mine will be a lifeline for the KIOCL Ltd. The final approval from the Union government is a good sign for the company to begin with in 2023," Mr. Saminathan said.

There will not be any mining operation during 2023-24 as the company needs time to build utility facilities. Ore production is likely to touch three lakh tonnes in 2024-25, five lakh tonnes in 2025-26, 10 lakh (one million) tonnes in 2026-27 and 20 lakh (two million) tonnes by 2027-28. "The beneficiation plant near the mining area will be set up by 2027-28," he said. The magnetite iron ore concentrate mined and beneficiated at the captive mines of Kudremukh was used to make pellets for more than three decades till December 2005. After the Supreme Court banned mining in the eco-sensitive region, the company stopped mining in Kudremukh from January 2006. Later, the mining area came under the Kudremukh National Park.

Malaysia says South India a major contributor to its tourism economy

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

South of India, especially Bengaluru, has been a significant contributor to Malaysia's tourism economy and the tourist inflow from this region has only been growing, said Razaidi Abd Rahim, director, South India & Sri Lanka, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board.

Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, in collaboration with city-based Jagadish Tours, is currently in the process of holding a three-month-long campaign in Bengaluru to boost inbound tourism to the country, he said.

According to Rakesh P., director of Jagadish Tours, a mural display campaign is being conducted in the city to create awareness on Malaysian tourism. "We are displaying three murals, located along Sankey Road and Brigade Road, for three months beginning February. Our idea is to capture the eyes and minds of all kinds of travellers from the city," said Mr. Rakesh.

"We see a great appetite for all segments of tourism among Bengaloreans, be it for leisure, business, MICE, wedding, adventure, and education, said Mr. Razaidi Abd Rahim.

Mohd Amirul Rizal Abdul Rahim, senior deputy director, International Promotion Division Asia/Africa, Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, told *The Hindu*, Malaysia was expecting to host 5 lakh to 6 lakh Indian tourists in calendar 2023, up from 3,20,000 last year, against its global tourist arrival target of 15.5 million. In 2019, Malaysia had 7,35,000 arrivals from India and the country was targeting to get back to 2019 levels by 2024, he said.

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For Transfer of Unpaid / Unclaimed dividend and Equity shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Account

Notice is hereby given that as per Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), the Bank is required to transfer the shares, in respect of which the dividend remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years to the IEPF Account established by the Central Government.

A list of such shareholders, who have not encashed their dividends for seven consecutive years commencing from the dividend declared in bank's AGM dated 17.03.2016 and whose shares are therefore liable for transfer to the IEPF Authority, is displayed on the website of the Bank **https://www.tmb.in/Aboutus/ShareholdersCorner/InvestorEducationandProtectionFund.**

The Bank had sent individual communication to the concerned shareholders whose unpaid / unclaimed dividend and shares thereon are liable to be transferred to IEPF Account as per the said Rules for taking appropriate action and submitting requisite documents to claim the dividend and shares before it transfers to IEPF Account. Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents as mentioned in the said communication to the RTA of our bank, **M/s. Link Intime India Pvt Ltd., Surya 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore** to claim the dividend and shares thereon. In case the Bank/RTA does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholder on or before 22.04.2023, the Bank would be transferring the said shares to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of said Rules.

The concerned shareholder(s) holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to the IEPF Authority, may note that upon transfer of shares to IEPF Authority, the original share certificate(s) which are registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable.

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The shareholders may note that upon transfer of the shares to IEPF Authority, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, the same can be claimed only from the IEPF Authority by making a separate application to the IEPF Authority in Form IEPF-5 as prescribed under the Rules and the same is made available at IEPF website www.iepf.gov.in.

For any information / clarifications on this matter, concerned shareholders may contact our RTA M/s. Link Intime India Pvt Ltd., Surya 35, Mayflower Avenue, Behind Senthil Nagar, Sowripalayam Road, Coimbatore – 641028, Tel No.: 0422-2314792 & 4958995, e-mail: iepf.shares@linkintime.co.in

For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
S/d
Prakash Chandra Panda
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

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THE HINDU

A pillar of modern Indian architecture

B.V. Doshi kept the local context in mind at a time when ideas from the west are blinding us from delving deep into the identities, potentials and realities of designing for India. By **Sathya Prakash Varanashi**

TRIBUTE

Much has been written about B.V. Doshi during the last week after his demise - the most celebrated architect from India, recipient of all major national civilian honours, beside all national and international awards for architecture. Of course, awards can follow each other and fame can be an ever-burning fire if fuelled regularly, beyond which lies the greatness of a person. So, this essay does not follow the fame, but follows the person.

There have been few other architects in India who also created great architecture around the same time as Doshi (1927 - 2023) - Achyut Kanvinde (1916 - 2002), Laurie Baker (1917 - 2007) and Charles Correa (1930 - 2015) - just to name a few others. Architecture cannot be compared like automobile prices to check which is better, but has to be showered with equal praises on an absolute understanding of their project philosophies, designs depths and experiential implications. Spread across different genres of building types, the above were the four founding pillars of modern Indian architecture, ably supported by many others unnamed here.

However, Doshi rose to the pinnacle of fame, possibly due to his popularity as an easily approachable person, his involvement in a wide range of inclinations such as architecture, education, institutions, events, documentations, town planning, jurying, writing, lecturing and networking with experts from around the world. Each of the above vocations informed the other, often forming each other such that he had no horizon to stop at.

Even the advancing age could not put him to rest, living an active life even after entering the 90s. Given this phenomenon call Doshi, this essay is intended not to recount the Doshi architecture, but recollect Doshi, the architect.

There were about five of us walking down the corridors of Indian Institute of Architecture, Bangalore. Carrying a small, toy-like aim-and-shoot digital camera, the child-like Doshi was busy shooting pictures, with a curiosity not expected from its own architect. Unable to resist, we ask why shoot, that too with such low image qualities.

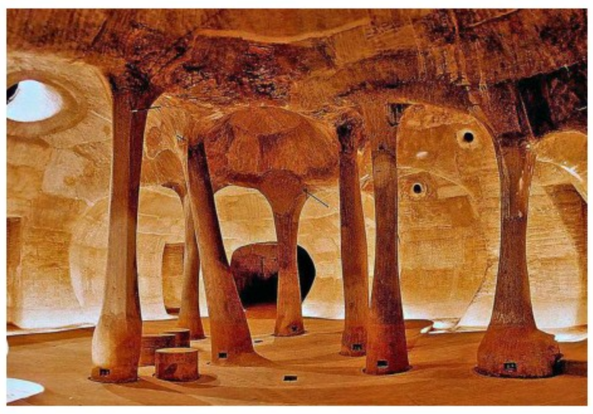
Calmly, Doshi explains how he finds new meanings in the campus every time he visits, walking down as if it's his first visit. Recording these meanings are important, hence the photographs, which can create new memories while watching them later.

Doshi enjoyed connecting to people, mainly to clients, students, architects and writers, and never faded from public memory

It was a small group, just a handful dialoguing with Doshi. The question of a new addition to a campus, debatably not in sync with the old, came up. Small pause, then Doshi asked us, could the architect have designed the extension that way without the internet. The answer was obvious, how contemporary ideas from the west are blinding us from delving deep into the identities, potentials and realities of designing for India, which Doshi did.

Back in 2011, the auditorium is packed with audience, forcing the organisers to close the door. Just as Doshi arrives, he opens the doors saying let people sit on available floor, if it's fine by them. What follows was an experience by itself - Doshi the story teller, Doshi on architecture and Doshi reading excerpts from the book 'Paths Uncharted', kind of an intellectual biography by Doshi himself.

Organised by the former students of CEPT Ahmedabad (the famous school of architecture Doshi found), Doshi was relaxing in a dinner mood with an invited and known group of architects - well, a few not so close to him also managed to get invited. With not enough time to give to friends, he could have ignored them, but the hyperenergetic Doshi manages to chat with them, knowing them and surprisingly remembering them the next time. His group of known people was never diminishing but was expanding with age.



A view of the Aranya low-cost housing project in Indore (above); underground art gallery in Ahmedabad (below) designed by B.V. Doshi who was also the architect for the IIMB campus.

Doshi, the 2009 bio-pic film made by Bijoy Ramachandran, judged among the better of such bio-pics was to be screened in Bengaluru. Expectedly, the theatre is crowded with no place even to stand in the lobby after the show. The hero of the film moves with the crowd oblivious of his aura of a master architect, smiling and interacting with the ease of an innocent, as if post film his life will re-start anew. Doshi always carried those twinkling curious eyes, inspiring the self and others.

Doshi was not a self-effacing architect, the kind who do not claim attention for oneself, living modest and retiring.

As someone enjoying connecting to people, he continued to touch everyone who came into his contacts, mainly to clients, students, architects and writers, which could be among the reasons why he never faded from public memory.

However, the core of his performance, popularity and achievements may lie in his now famous philosophy stated in Hindi "Anand Karo" (Enjoy Life). Enjoying life to the hilt, he wished the same to all. Now it is time we all wish the same to Doshi - Sir, enjoy your afterlife.

(The author is an architect working on eco-friendly designs and can be contacted at varanashi@gmail.com)

THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

Will complain against fake letter, says Siddaramaiah

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Friday dismissed as "fake and forged" a purported letter, written in Kannada and addressed to All India Congress Committee's (AICC) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, talking about differences over ticket and a possible rebellion over the issue. Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the letter was created and attributed to him with an objective to destroy his relation with KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, adding that he will file a complaint with the police. "Some miscreants did this with the malicious intent of spoiling the relationship between me and the KPCC president. I clarify that I have nothing to do with this letter," said.

Shivakumar meets Sudeep

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar called on Kannada film star Sudeep at his residence in Bengaluru. While the party maintained that Mr. Shivakumar met the actor to seek suggestions for the Congress' manifesto, the meeting behind closed doors has raised eyebrows in poll-bound Karnataka. Mr. Shivakumar's aides maintained that it was a personal visit with no political motives. With an eye on Mr. Sudeep's fan base, the Congress has been making attempt to rope in the actor. Sources said the party has made a request to the actor to campaign for it in the Assembly elections as the "star campaigner".

Administrative reforms panel for ban on pvt. practice by govt. doctors of all departments

The ban will enable starting of evening out-patient departments in government hospitals, says the report of Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2, headed by former Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 (KARC-2) headed by T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, former Chief Secretary, on Friday recommended to the State government ban of private practice by government doctors of all departments and modifying "rural quota" to "rural SSLC board/government school quota" to enable more rural students to get seats in MBBS course.

As a large number of doctors in government health centres indulged in private practice after their official duty during the day, the commission said the government "may ban private practice by government doctors of all departments" as in Central government medical institutes and Central Government Health System (CGHS). The ban of private practice will enable starting of evening out-patient department (OPD) in government hospitals, the report said.

Mr. Vijay Bhaskar called on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to submit the 4th and 5th reports of the commission suggesting measures on improving the quality of primary education, and delivery of services in health, veterinary, agriculture, BBMP, and other administrative departments.

It said that common screening centres staffed with MBBS, nursing, and paramedical interns may be started at the OPD counters of hospitals for referral and entering data in e-Hospital. "Interns and Arogya Mitras would be given tabs to do in-situ registration, payment, and issue of OPD slips. "Kannada signage may be extensively put up at necessary locations," it said.

Five States such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Puducherry provide NRI quota in government medical colleges. It suggested creation of an NRI quota of 5%-10% in government medical colleges in Karnataka. "They may be charged higher fees that can be retained by the concerned medical college and hospital for its development".

The commission recommended modification of "rural quota" to "Rural SSLC board/government school quota". It said CBSE and ICSE students, forming 11% of the total class X-passed students in Karnataka, secure 48% of MBBS seats under the government quota. Out of the 15% rural government quota MBBS seats, only 3.45% go to rural government school students.

Rural class-X passed CBSE and ICSE students form just 5% of the total class X-passed students and they secured 51% (more than 10 times their proportionate share) seats under the rural government quota MBBS seats in 2022.

The panel suggested three options - Convert entire 15% "rural quota" to a "rural State government school quota", or "Rural SSLC Board Government quota", including private school SSLC Board students or out of 15% rural quota, 7.5% should be reserved for "Rural Government School students". The remaining 7.5% could be open to private aided, unaided SSLC Board schools and CBSE, ICSE board school students.

It also suggested giving weightage of 10% marks for every year of rural service by government doctors up to a maximum of 30% marks to be added to the marks secured in the NEET PG exam for admission to in-service PG seats.

More eggs to children

For reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and improving nutrition levels, the panel suggested giving five eggs per week instead of two per week to severely malnourished (SAM) and moderately malnourished (MAM) children aged 6 months to 3. It suggested providing two eggs per week to normal children.

The panel visited 21 districts, 52 taluks, 147 cities/towns and 46 villages, and 302 institutions; met 3,482 officials, elected representatives and citizens between January 2021 and November 2022.

The Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2 submitted its 4th and 5th Reports to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Other key recommendations of panel

- Shift 6,307 anganwadi centres operating from rented buildings to the nearest govt. school building
- Merge govt. lower primary schools and higher primary schools within 100 metres with 1,667 higher primary schools
- Do away with the need for transfer certificate
- Set up separate directorates for child development and for women empowerment and development
- Reduce members, including chairperson of KPSC, from 14 to 8
- Document verification to be done by departments concerned before issuing appointment orders
- Transfer excess assistant agricultural officers in raitha samparka kendras to districts based on workload
- Set up a post-harvest cell within the Department of Horticulture for post-harvest management
- Create apprenticeship vacancies in State PSUs to the maximum limit of 15% of posts
- Merge Employment Service Department with Kaushalya Mission
- Abolish Karnataka State Cooperative Election Authority

'KAS officers can man 30 revenue divisions in BBMP'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The panel recommended creation of 30 posts of Deputy Commissioners of the rank of KAS senior officers (Group A) in 30 BBMP Revenue divisions. It suggested creation of 30 divisions in BBMP for decentralisation and better coordination at division level. Senior scale KAS officers would be better able to coordinate with various officers, it said.

'Reduce SSLC pass marks'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Another significant suggestion made by the commission was reduction of pass marks in SSLC examination. With pass percentages in SSLC examination in Karnataka being much lower than in neighbouring States, it recommended reduction of minimum pass marks in the SSLC theory examination from 28 to 20. However, the overall average pass marks remain at 35% in SSLC theory exam.

Janata Dal (S) complains to EC against holding govt. employees' conference

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) has complained to the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka against State Government Employees Association president Shadakshari for planning to hold a State government employees' conference on February 4 in Shivamogga, alleging that he was working in favour of the ruling party. They argued that it was against the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

In his complaint, Pradeep Kumar S.P., general secretary, State Legal Cell of JD(S), alleged: "Mr. Shadakshari is a government employee and he must be obedient to the rules of Karnataka Civil Service Rules, 1957. According to these rules, a government employee should keep distance from political parties and should remain politically neutral."

However, he is holding the conference ahead of the Assembly elections, and recognised himself with some particular political party and its leader. He had also offered some gifts to the participants and it is against the principles of Karnataka State Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 2021., the party said

In the complaint, they alleged that there were flexes, banners, and buntings across Shivamogga city. The party sought legal action against Mr. Shadakshari.

'Annual event'

Refuting the allegations, Mr. Shadakshari said that such conferences were being held annually. "It is wrong to give it political colour," he said. "We have invited respectable speakers like Gururaj Karjagi and Gangavati Pranesh to motivate workers." He added that election code of conduct had not kicked in and it was wrong to read motives into routine events.

BJP special executive committee meeting to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP is set to hold a special executive committee meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday to review its preparations for the Assembly elections and also to prepare a calendar of events with respect to poll preparations at least for the next one month.

The meeting, which is being held at Palace Grounds, will be attended by over 800 members. Key strategist B.L. Santhosh will take part in the meeting, which is expected to finalise the dates for the 'rath yatra' to be taken out from four different directions in the State, sources in the party said. The BJP is planning rath yatras to intensify its poll campaign.

According to a senior leader from the party State unit, the meeting will review the performance of two major campaigns taken up by the party - Vijaya Sankalpa yatra and Booth Vijaya. Depending upon the coverage at booth level, the meeting is expected to take a further call on its poll preparations.

"The meeting will try to analyse the impact of our ongoing campaigns depending upon feedback from various quarters," sources said.

It would also chalk out the events to be taken up with respect to poll preparations at least for the next one month, sources said.

Meanwhile, BJP national general secretary and State in charge Arun Singh, who arrived in Bengaluru to take part in the meeting, maintained that Karnataka had got maximum benefit from the Union Budget such as the grant of ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project. Interacting with media persons, he claimed that the Centre would support the State with respect to railway projects too.

BJP to replicate U.P., Gujarat experiment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Beneficiaries of Central and State schemes account for 70% of voters in every Assembly constituency'

The BJP in Karnataka is set to experiment with the Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh model of trying to woo beneficiaries of Central and State schemes ahead of elections.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the BJP State core committee that met in Bengaluru on Friday. BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi told media persons after the core committee meeting that conventions of beneficiaries of State and Central schemes would be held in all the districts.

The Ministers and leaders from the State would participate in these meetings.

Pointing out that beneficiaries of Central and State government schemes accounted for about 70% of voter population in every Assembly constituency, he said efforts would be turn them into BJP voters. "Such an experiment in Gujarat and UP has brought success to the BJP," he said.

Similarly, prominent leaders will tour the State in four different teams sometime after the Budget. The yatras will culminate in Davangere in the third week of March, Mr. Ravi said.

Siddaramaiah, DKS begin Praja Dhwani yatra covering north and south regions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and State Congress president D.K. Shivakumar on Friday began Paja Dhwani yatra bus tours ahead of the Assembly elections from northern and southern Karnataka, respectively. This comes after holding a joint yatra.

The Siddaramaiah-led team started from the historic city of Basavakalyan in Bidar district. Mr. Siddramaiah alleged that the BJP government had merely changed the name to "Kalyana Karnataka" but failed to develop the region into one that befits the name. Among other things, he said that if the Congress comes to power in 2023, they will establish Anubhav Mantap Development Board at Basavakalyan.

The KPCC president's poll campaign started from Mulbagal in Kolar district after a prayer at Ganapati temple in Kudumalai. Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar's convoy arrived at K.R. Puram in the East Bengaluru as a large number of party workers thronged to garland him.

Though there was speculation of former Minister and manifesto committee chairperson G. Parameshwara being unhappy with "unilateral" announcements being made by top leaders without taking him into confidence, he later said that all "small differences" would be sorted out and there was no discontentment. In a show of solidarity, both Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Parameshwara were seen together atop the special bus made for the yatra.

Congress leaders D.K. Shivakumar and G. Parameshwara at a rally in Kolar district on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hackathon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Police is hosting a two-day Police Hackathon from Saturday.

The event is being organised to find solutions to different technological problem statements of the Police Department, said a release. It will be held at II-IT Bengaluru. 55 teams have been shortlisted from 14,000 registrations.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Buildings (C & M) circle, Madurai– 625 002.
Notice Inviting Tenders Pre Qualification Tender (Two cover system)
Short term Tender Notice No:35SE /Buildings (C & M) Circle / Madurai / 2022-2023 / Date: 03.02.2023.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C & M) circle, Madurai.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx value Rs. in Lakhs	Period of Completion	EMD to be remitted in favour of the Office
01	**Two cover system** Construction of Jallikattu Arena at Keelakarai Village in Madurai District.	Rs. 4300.00 Lakhs	09 Months	EMD Amount Rs.21,60,000/-, The Executive Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction Division, Madurai

For further details and tender documents visit the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and **www.tntenders.gov.in** Cost of tender schedule Sl. No. 01 for Rs.15000 + GST paid , tender document available **09.02.2023** to **23.02.2023** up to **5.45 pm** in the circle office and pre qualification Tender received up to **3.00 PM** on **24.02.2023** and tenders will be opened **3.30 PM** on the same day.

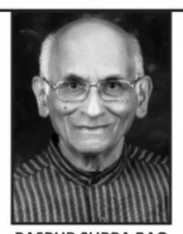
Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C & M) circle, Madurai

DIPR/ 758 /TENDER/2023

" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



BASRUR SUBBA RAO
28th Feb' 1931 - 28th Jan' 2023
Passed away peacefully in his sleep after living life on his own terms.
Fondly remembered by
Basrur, Narula, Hosangadi and Hattangady Families

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, SEDAM – 585222
E-mail : apmcsedam123@gmail.com office Ph : 08441-276030
No.AMD/APMC/SDM/DEV/1246 / 2022-23 Date: 03-02-2023

-: BRIEF E-TENDER NOTIFICATION:-

APMC., Sedam hereby invites Tender for the following Development works Sanctioned under 2022-23 Annual Action Plan, from eligible e-portal registered PWD contractors in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, itemized rates etc. by uploading through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** website in standard documents KW-2. (With latest amendments)

1) Pre-Bid & Tender Query Meeting : **20-02-2023 at 11.00 AM,** 2) Last Date for Reciept of filled Tenders: **09-02-2023 to 23-02-2023 upto 4.00 PM,** 3) Opening of Technical Bid: **27-02-2023 at 4.00 PM**, 4) Opening of Financial Bid: **01-03-2023 at 4.00 PM**, 5) Place of opening of E-Tender bid. : APMC, Sedam

1) Name of work : **Construction of RCC Drain & Culverts at Main Market Yard APMC Sedam,** Amount put to Tender (in lakh.) : **190.00,** EMD Amount (in Rupees) : 2,39,492/-, Time limit (Including monsoon period) : 5 1/2 months, Eligibility of the Contractors/Firms : Registered PWD Class-1 Civil Contractor, Tender Fee : As per E-governance

2) Name of work : **Construction of CC Road at Main Market Yard of APMC Sedam,** Amount put to Tender (in lakh.) : 50.00, EMD Amount (in rupees) : 83,767/-, Time limit (Including monsoon period) : 3 months, Eligibility of the Contractors/Firms : Registered PWD Class-1 Civil Contractor, Tender Fee : As per E-governance

Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sedam-585222 during working days and hours or through website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary A.P.M.C, Sedam. **Sd/- Administrator, A.P.M.C, Sedam.**

DIP/Kalaburagi/1226/MC&A/2022-23

Kerala Budget: Petrol, liquor to cost more

The Budget earmarks ₹2,000 crore for tackling inflation and ₹100 crore for a 'Make in Kerala' programme intended to promote local industry and self-reliance; Finance Minister says State is countering hard Budget constraints given the limited elbow space offered by the Centre on the fiscal front

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on Friday announced a string of tax increases and new cesses aimed at mopping up additional revenue in his Budget for the 2023-24 fiscal, even as the measures drew sharp criticism for burdening taxpayers.

The Budget also earmarked ₹2,000 crore for tackling inflation and ₹100 crore for a 'Make in Kerala' programme intended to promote local industry and self-reliance.

Petrol, diesel and liquor will turn costlier with Mr. Balagopal announcing a Social Security Cess on all three items. The Budget also announced hike in the one-time tax on motorcycles, cars and private service vehicles, the one-time cess on newly-registered motor vehicles, and the electricity duty applicable to commercial and industrial units.

Further, Friday's announcements included a 20% increase in fair value of land and stamp duty revision from 5% to 7%.

Through these measures, the State government hopes to generate an additional revenue of ₹2,955 crore.

The electricity duty applicable to commercial and industrial units will be hiked to 5%, mopping up an additional ₹200 crore for the State.

Tough measures: Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal presenting the Kerala Budget at the Assembly on Friday. S. MAHINSHA

It also announced measures for raking in an additional ₹600 crore as non-tax revenue from the mining and geology sector. This is being realised through a slew of measures including royalty hikes across all segments of minor minerals, introduction of a price differential system for granite, and revision of penalties related to the mining and geology sector.

Property tax revision

Mr. Balagopal, who said that Kerala is "countering hard Budget constraints" given the limited elbow space offered by the Centre on the fiscal front, also announced the government's intention to revise the property tax, which could bolster the own fund of local bodies by ₹1,000 crore.

This will be through a "proper method of taxation" of multiple ownership of houses and newly built houses lying vacant.

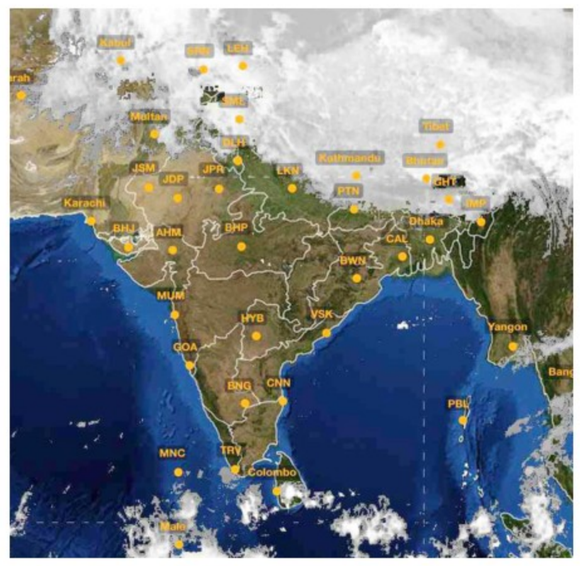
The 2023-24 State Budget envisions revenue receipts of ₹1,35,418.67 crore and a revenue expenditure of ₹1,59,360.91 crore.

Mr. Balagopal said ₹1,000 crore will be earmarked through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board for acquiring land for the development of an industrial corridor connected to the Vizhinjam international seaport.

The Budget has earmarked ₹600 crore towards the rubber subsidy, and ₹131 crore for the ailing Kerala State Road Transport Corporation.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Odisha. Squally weather likely over Comorin area

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.6	11.4	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.7	14.2	Kurnool	—	33.0	19.1
Aizawl	—	25.5	11.9	Lucknow	—	24.0	10.0
Allahabad	—	25.8	8.2	Madurai	10	31.0	22.1
Bengaluru	—	26.0	17.2	Mangaluru	—	33.0	23.0
Bhopal	—	—	8.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	20.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	14.6	Mysuru	—	27.0	14.0
Chandigarh	—	23.3	9.2	New Delhi	—	24.7	9.5
Chennai	—	30.4	26.4	Patna	—	25.0	11.2
Coimbatore	—	28.3	20.3	Port Blair	—	30.7	24.1
Dehradun	—	24.4	9.0	Puducherry	4.4	27.8	21.6
Gangtok	—	17.1	9.5	Pune	—	29.9	14.8
Goa	—	35.8	21.8	Raipur	—	31.6	13.4
Guwahati	—	28.6	15.5	Ranchi	—	26.6	9.4
Hubballi	—	32.0	18.0	Shillong	—	19.5	8.7
Hyderabad	—	31.8	14.9	Shimla	—	17.2	7.7
Imphal	—	28.1	11.2	Srinagar	—	8.0	-0.6
Jaipur	—	26.4	10.1	Thiruvananthapuram	3	30.0	23.6
Kochi	—	30.2	25.4	Tiruchi	11	28.1	21.6
Kohima	—	21.4	9.0	Vijayawada	—	31.3	21.0
Kolkata	—	25.6	14.5	Visakhapatnam	—	30.5	22.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	5	.4	154	155	
Bengaluru	.16	11	30	108	107	
Chennai	.26	44	40	150	110	
Delhi	—	105	74	258	342	
Hyderabad	6	50	38	129	144	
Kolkata	7	12	58	177	126	
Lucknow	.23	53	83	258	185	
Mumbai	.46	269	41	357	161	
Pune	—	22	49	310	184	
Visakhapatnam	6	38	39	176	132	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 398 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Fire breaks out in newly built Telangana Secretariat

A fire broke out in the newly-constructed Telangana State Secretariat, which is being readied for the inauguration ceremony in a fortnight here, on Friday. Official sources said no one was injured in the incident. The fire reportedly originated around 3 a.m. in the lower floors of the building where material for wood work and plastic was stored. It was not clear if an electric short circuit caused the fire.

Choose bypoll candidate via AIADMK general council, OPS can vote, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that the choice of AIADMK candidate for the coming byelection to Erode (East) Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu be put to vote by the party's general council via circulation.

"This is a workable solution in the interest of the political party. It will allow the participation of the party's candidate in the process of democracy," the court said.

A Bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy ordered that the decision of the general council would be conveyed by the Presidium Chairman of the party, A. Tamil Magan Hussain, to the Election Commission of India. The EC should accept the "ultimate decision" of the general council as the authorisation given by the party to the candidate it wants to field in the byelection.

The court allowed the allegedly "expelled" party members, O. Panneerselvam, R. Vaithilingam, J.C.D. Prabhakar and P.H. Manoj Pandian, to participate in the general council voting. The court made it clear that this was only an interim arrangement for the sole purpose of choosing a candidate for the byelection and not anything beyond that. The interim arrangement devised would not be a cause of prejudice to the rights of the parties and would not confer any additional rights to any parties.

The apex court judgment on the dispute over the amendments made in the party by laws during the July 11, 2022 general council meeting continues to stand reserved, the Bench noted. The July 2022 meeting had appointed former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswamy, represented by senior advocate Aryama Sundaram and advocates Balaji Srinivasan and Rohini Musa, as the party's interim general secretary and abolished the post of party coordinator occupied by Mr. Panneerselvam.

"This particular interim arrangement shall have no bearing on the consideration of the judgment issue," the court clarified.

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Div., Chitradurga.
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/TENDER NOTIFICATION:47/2022-23 DATE: 01-02-2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER) KW-2, 3 & 4

Item rate tender in two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD (KW-3 & 4) for the following work through e-procurement portal.

Name of work: 1) IMPROVEMENTS OF CHIKBENNUR TANK AND FEEDER CANAL IN CHITRADURGA TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender: Rs. 81.23 Lakhs. 2) CONSTRUCTION OF PROTECTION WALL ACROSS HALLA NEAR SANEHALLI MATT IN HOSADURGA TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender: Rs. 84.69 Lakhs. 3) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM CUM CAUSEWAY ACROSS HALLA NEAR KADAVAGERE AND KADAVAGERE GRANTAPURA IN HOSADURGA TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender: Rs. 109.44 Lakhs. 4) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECKDAM CUM CAUSEWAY ACROSS HALLA NEAR CHIKKATEKALAVATTI AND HEGGERE IN HOSADURGA TALUK, CHITRADURGA DISTRICT. Amount put to tender: Rs. 142.82 Lakhs.

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 03.02.2023 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 10.02.2023 upto 05:30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 10.02.2023 upto 04:00 P.M., Opening of Technical bid Date: 14.02.2023 after 04:30 P.M , Opening of Finanical bid Date:15.02.2023 after 04:30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

RO No. 948: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2022-23/11485 & 11488 Date: 01.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal Only)

1) KPTCL invites bids against **Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/NRJ LOT-2/2022-23/358 Date: 24.01.2023** for "Design Manufacture, Supply, Supervision of Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220V 300AH Lead Acid Plante Type Battery sets along with stand & accessories conforming to KPTCL Technical specifications, F.O.R.D. at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation for 220kV R/s Kushalnagara, TL&SS Division, Hootagally coming under Transmission Zone, Mysuru under Buy Back Scheme".

2) KPTCL invites bids against **Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/NRJ LOT-3/2022-23/359 Date: 27.01.2023** for "Design Manufacture, Supply, Supervision of Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 110V 100 AH Lead Acid Plante Type Battery sets & 48V, 200 AH Lead Acid Plante Type Battery Sets for PLCC & Exchanges along with stand & accessories conforming to KPTCL Technical specifications, F.O.R.D. at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation for various Sub-Stations coming under Transmission Zone, Mysuru under Buy Back Scheme".

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on **hyperlink "e-procurement"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.02.2023.** Any further details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana,
FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-07.
Phone: 0821-2455770/2457275.

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DIST SURGEON DIST HOSPITAL YADAGIRI
Email Id: dsdhyadgiri@gmail.com
NO. DHY/TENDER/INS & EQP/117/2022-23 DATE: 02-02-2023

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub:- Calling short time E-Procurement Tender of ENT, Surgery, Ophthalmology and Dental Departments, for Instruments and Equipments Reg.

Calling short term E- procurement re-tender in two cover system from interested manufacturer, distributer and authorized dealers for supply of Instruments and Equipments for ENT, Surgery, Ophthalmology and Dental Departments. Interested can upload the required details in E-Portal No: DHFWS/2022-23/IND6134/CALL-2 in http://www.eproc.krnataka.gov.in from 02-02-2023 to 10-02-2023 up to 4:00 PM.

DIP/Yadagiri/451/K.S.M.C&A 2022-23 **SD/- District Surgeon**
District Hospital Yadgir

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Division,
Bengaluru-560027
No.: KST/EE/JE/734/2022-23 Date: 02.02.2023

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT - TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 36 & 37 / 2022-23

Tenders / Bids are invited from eligible registered Contractors / individuals / agency / firms by the Executive Engineer, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Civil Engineering Division, Bengaluru for the detailed below:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	E.M.D. (in Rs.)	Time Limit in months (Including Monsoon)
1	36/2022-23	Developmental Works at Bus Station Mulubagilu (2nd Call)	63.70	1,28,000.00	06
2	37/2022-23	Developmental Works at KGF Bus Station (2nd Stage) (2nd Call)	63.70	1,28,000.00	06

More details can be obtained by logging to the website, https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-,
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/LC/4463/2022-23 KSRTC CE Division, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH RAICHUR
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION RAICHUR
NO./EE/RDWS&S/RCR/TS/JJM/2022-23/2707 DATED : 31-01-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Raichur invites tenders from eligible tenderers Registered under e-procurement civil contractors in Panchayath Engineering Department, for Providing water supply scheme to below works, as per KW-3 & 4 Standard Bid Document Under JJM 2022-23 GOI&GOK Fund (90%) & Community Contribution (10%). The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table in GOK e- Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed.

1) Notification Date: 31-01-2023 2) Download of tender schedule documents online : 02-02-2023 3) Pre Bid Meeting at Office of the Executive Engineer, RDWS&S, Division, Raichur, 2nd Floor, Zilla Panchyath, Raichur: 07-02-2023 at 11:00 3) Last date for receiving of filled tender documents: 11-02-2023 at 4:30 Pm 4) Opening of Technical bid:12-02-2023 at 5:30 pm 5) Opening of Financial bid : 13-02-2023 at 5:30 pm

Indent Nos: Sindhanur: 55028, 55029, 55030, 55031, 55032, 55033, 55034, 55035, 55036, 55037, 55038, 55039, 55040, 55041 **Raichur:** 55042, 54718, 54719, 54720, 54721, 54722

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Dept. works list.

DIP/Raichur/581/K.S.M.A & C/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDWS&S. Divn, Raichur**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi. Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281410
NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/L.S Progr/e-tender/2022-23/1062 dated: 31-01-2023

II nd CALL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (through e-procurement)

Ref: This Office Tender Notification No.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DTP/L.S/Tender/2022-23/849 Dated 01-12-2022

Short term tender is called through e-procurement for the 4 Work in Landscape Programme as per the KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000. Bidders may get detailed information and Terms and conditions to apply at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and in the above said office. The E.M.D and tender processing fee should be paid through e-procurement.

Sl.No	Details	II nd Call Tender Date
1	Tender Publishing Date	01.02.2023 @ 5.00 PM
2	Pre Bid Meeting Date	09.02.2023 @ 11.00 AM
3	Last date of application of tender	15.02.2023 @ 5.00 PM.
4	Opening of Technical bids	17.02.2023 @ 11.00 AM.
5	Opening of Financial bids	24.02.2023 @ 11.00 AM.

Note: A pre-bid review meeting will be conveyed on Dated 09.02.2023 11.00 AM in the Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL Forest Division, Almatti, the Contractor shall submitt querries if any in Writing to the undersigned office on or before 08.02.2023 at 5.00 PM.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/820/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275740, 276339
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 54/22-23 Dt: 04.02.2023
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD in Rs.
1	Design, manufacture, supply, erection and commissioning of the SAHR brake system for auxiliary drive at SAG mill. **HGML/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT393/CALL-2**	13.00	32,500/-
2	Supply of bare hydraulic hose for UG heavy equipment use. **HGML/2022-23/IND3459**	9.79	24,500/-
3	Supply installation & commissioning of industrial washing machine. **HGML/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT420/CALL-2**	33.16	66,500/-
4	Supply of wooden planks and sleepers. **HGML/2022-23/IND3436/CALL-2**	161.95	2,43,000/-
5	Supply of telephone cables. **HGML/2022-23/IND3470**	13.55	34,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Pre-bid meeting (Zoom): **10.02.2023 for Sl.No.4 at 10.30 AM. (2)** Last date for receipt of tender: **17.02.2023 at 4.00 P.M. (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **21.02.2023 at 10.00 A.M.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- General Manager (Co-Ord)

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Going green

The Budget can help India transition out of its dependence on fossil fuels

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget is noteworthy for the emphasis she has laid on the government's commitment to move towards net-zero carbon emission by 2070. As an article presented at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos last month notes, India holds the key to hitting global climate change targets given its sizeable and growing energy needs. With the country's population set to overtake China's some time this year, India's appetite for energy to propel the economy is set to surge exponentially. The transition to green alternatives from the current reliance on fossil fuels is therefore an urgent imperative and an opportunity to leverage this move to catalyse new industries, generate jobs on a sizeable scale, and add to overall economic output. In a nod to this, Budget 2023-24 devoted a fair amount of space to the green industrial and economic transition needed. With the electric vehicle (EV) revolution poised to take off as every automobile major rolls out new EV models to tap demand, the availability of indigenously produced lithium-ion batteries has become a necessity, especially to lower the cost of EVs. The Budget hearteningly proposes to exempt customs duty on the import of capital goods and machinery required to manufacture lithium-ion cells used in EV batteries. This ought to give a fillip to local companies looking to set up EV battery plants.

Another key proposal relates to the establishment of a viability gap funding mechanism to support the creation of battery energy storage systems with a capacity of 4,000 MWh. Energy storage systems are crucial in power grid stabilisation and essential as India increases its reliance on alternative sources of power generation including solar and wind. With wind turbine farms and solar photovoltaic projects characteristically producers of variable electric supply, battery storage systems become enablers of ensuring the electricity these generators produce at their peak output is stored and then supplied to match the demand arriving at the grid from household or industrial consumers. Ms. Sitharaman also set aside a vital ₹8,300 crore towards a ₹20,700 crore project for building an inter-State transmission system for the evacuation and grid integration of 13 GW of renewable energy from Ladakh. With its vast stretches of barren land and one of the country's highest levels of sunlight availability, Ladakh is considered an ideal location to site photovoltaic arrays for producing a substantial capacity of solar power. The transmission line will help address what had so far been the hurdle in setting up solar capacity in the region, given its remoteness from India's main power grid.

Reign of terror

Myanmar's junta must be pushed to hold talks with the opposition

Two years after it captured power through a coup, Myanmar's military is struggling to maintain its grip on power in a country that has become a land of many mutinies. On February 1, the second anniversary of the coup that toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, thousands joined the opposition's call for a "silent strike" by shutting shops and staying at home. The junta's decision to extend the state of emergency – which would also mean that the August elections the Generals had announced seeking political legitimacy would be further delayed – points to the regime's weakening control. This is certainly not the scenario Gen. Min Aung Hlaing had anticipated when he grabbed power, citing fraud in the 2020 general election which Ms. Suu Kyi's party had swept. The Tatmadaw (the military) imprisoned the entire government and most of the ruling party lawmakers, including Ms. Suu Kyi, cracked down on democracy protests and started ruling the country directly – old tactics that have helped the Generals to rule through fear. But unlike in the past when the military faced democratic civilian resistance to its brutal rule, Myanmar fell into an armed civil war after the February coup. Whatever the military did to take control only made matters worse.

Now the junta is facing multiple crises in the face of a humanitarian disaster. The remnants of the old government have formed an alternative administration, the National Unity Government. Several cells of the People's Defence Force (PDF), the armed wing of the NUT, have sprung up in the otherwise peaceful Buddhist heartlands carrying out ambushes. In the borderlands, ethnic minority militias, which have been fighting the military, have joined hands with the urban guerillas of the PDF. The junta's response has been indiscriminate bombings. Since the coup, some 3,000 civilians have been killed, 40,000 houses destroyed and about 1.5 million people displaced. According to the UN, some 17.6 million people, roughly a third of Myanmar's population, will need humanitarian assistance. The junta is neither interested in nor capable of addressing these problems. And the war it is fighting against its own people is not helping the Generals' cause either – a report by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar, an independent group of international experts, says the junta has stable control over only 17% of the country. This is an unprecedented scenario. What Myanmar urgently needs is meaningful dialogue between the junta and the opposition to restore democracy and start talks with ethnic rebels. Regional and international players, especially ASEAN, China and India, should push the Generals to start talks with the opposition.

Little to celebrate in Sri Lanka at 75

Controversy looms over Sri Lanka's celebration of the 75th anniversary of its Independence (February 4, 1948), with a question having been raised on whether it is worth wasting Sri Lankan rupees 300 million on this event.

Why has the Sri Lankan government decided to have an expensive official celebration? The country is facing ruinous economic collapse and thousands of poor citizens could be facing starvation. So why waste so much public money when there is absolutely nothing to celebrate as achievements after Independence?

There is another controversy brewing too. Nationwide local government elections are to be held before the end of February. But there is a debate on whether it is prudent to spend public money on an election while also facing an economic crisis. It is a case of narrow interests of the ruling elite versus democracy and public welfare. The President's office has been making the claim that the Treasury has no money to spend on an election which is not an urgent public need. The Opposition points out that this is an excuse put out by the ruling coalition to avoid electoral humiliation. Although the elections have been scheduled by the Election Commission, whether they will be held at all is another issue. Meanwhile, the Independence day celebrations will go on as planned, irrespective of the absence of public enthusiasm.

In Sri Lanka, 1948 as an event has hardly struck a chord outside official circles. Some of the reasons are rooted in Sri Lanka's specific path to Independence. The others are linked to what has been achieved or not by the governments after the colonial rulers left.

The main point in any celebratory discourse is that Sri Lanka's 'national heroes' won political independence from the British without any bloodshed – in contrast to other countries where the path to independence was, in many cases, a violent one. This thesis, of 'independence without bloodshed', is not universally admired in Sri Lanka, due to its inherent limits.

Jayadeva Uyangoda

is Emeritus Professor of Political Science, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Roots of the discourse

The discourse that is sceptical about celebrating Independence as an event of national pride has four roots – Sinhala nationalist, Tamil nationalist, socialist, and academic.

Sinhala nationalists have been enraged with the colonial rulers for not granting Sri Lanka complete political sovereignty. They are unhappy with local nationalist leaders too for not having fought for full independence and sovereignty. Their argument is that the Soulbury Constitution of 1947 embodied only partial independence and incomplete sovereignty. They are also unhappy that the Constitution was secular and did not recognise the special rights of the majority Sinhalese Buddhists. Partly inspired by the Indian example, Sinhala nationalists proposed as early as 1952 that Ceylon should be made a republic with a special status for Buddhism in the Constitution.

There are key reasons why the 'thesis' of 'independence without bloodshed' is hardly admired in the island-nation

For the Tamil nationalists, it was about a fear that the system of government in place after Independence having had the potential to ensure majority dominance. Before 1948, their main demand was for balanced representation for all minorities in the legislature to prevent any majoritarian dominance in government. However, the independent Constitution gave them only legal protection against discriminatory legislation. On realising that legislative non-discrimination was a false promise, Tamil leaders backed regional autonomy, which called for a structuring of the post-Independence constitutional order.

The Left critique shared the Sinhala nationalist argument that political independence secured by the local elites was incomplete, arguing that only a socialist republic would ensure full political independence and sovereignty to all Sri Lankans. So, the celebration of 1948 was a politically empty exercise promoted by 'reactionary' political elites. This is the background to why the Left parties collaborated with the Sinhala nationalist Sri Lanka Freedom Party in 1970-72 to establish the 'socialist, democratic republic' of Sri Lanka.

Academic scepticism, partially inspired by the Left critique, has highlighted the incomplete nature of political independence being linked to the absence of a militant anti-colonial mass movement for independence in Sri Lanka. It argued that the 'colonised class of Ceylonese bourgeoisie', whose leaders negotiated Independence, was never committed to severing economic, political and cultural links with the coloniser.

Another point that has gripped the popular consciousness is the collaborationist conservatism of the Sri Lankan bourgeois elites which prevented them from giving leadership to a militant anti-colonial mass movement, as in India. In advancing this point, comparisons have been made between the Indian National Congress, its leaders and its strategy of mass mobilisation in the nationalist struggle. Thus, the culturally anglicised and 'comprador' class of the Sri Lankan elites opted for negotiations rather than forcing them out through a popular struggle.

A major political debate in Sri Lanka since the early 1950s has been over the political-constitutional framework of Independence. There was minimum consensus on the liberal democratic nature of the overall framework of the post-Independence political order. Even the Left endorsed it with the caveat that full independence and sovereignty would be a reality only under socialism.

The major reform arguments from the Left were about making Sri Lanka a republic, abolition of the Senate, and a further strengthening of minority rights. Sinhalese nationalist reform arguments have included making Sri Lanka a Buddhist republic, state commitment to protecting Buddhism, restoration of the rights of Sinhalese Buddhists and their culture, and making Sinhalese the official language. Meanwhile, the key Tamil nationalist demand has been about a restructuring of the post-Independence state within a framework of federalism, to give Tamils the right to regional autonomy.

The First Republican Constitution of 1972 – also the first major structural reform after 1948 – embodied a mixture of Sinhalese nationalist and Left reform proposals. But it refused to accommodate the Tamil nationalist reform demands.

A short-lived peace

In South Asia, Sri Lanka's exceptionalism in 1948 has been its peaceful, non-violent nature. However, social and political peace has been a short-lived one. Since the early 1970s, violent confrontations between the state and citizens have become the rule in politics. An armed insurgency in Sinhalese society seeking economic and social rights began in 1971. There was a second JVP insurgency from 1987 to 1989, which was also put down quite harshly.

The insurgency in the northern Tamil society began in 1983, seeking autonomy for a Tamil 'nation', leading to a long and protracted civil war. The human cost of state versus citizen conflict has been enormous, with still no official count of how many perished.

If this long record of social and political disorder has posed very sharp questions about the meaning of Sri Lanka's political independence, the current crisis of economic collapse points to new questions about the continuing record of policy and governance failures of Sri Lanka's political elites. Sri Lanka, which had earlier boasted of one of the best human development achievements, is now among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest number of malnourished children.

When all this is taken together, it is horrendous testimony to how Sri Lanka's political and bureaucratic elites have given citizens a dark future.

There is every justification for angry citizens to ask the present rulers what moral right they have to waste millions of rupees of public money to celebrate an independence the meaning of which they continue to contest.

Charge sheet scrutiny is not a case of prying eyes

The highest court of India reached the almost last frontier of transparency in its agreeing to the live telecast of some of its hearings – a move warmly welcomed by activists clamouring for more openness in judicial proceedings. The Chief Justice of India's statement, that Supreme Court of India judgments will now be translated in four languages (Hindi, Gujarati, Odia and Tamil, as "the English language in its 'legal avatar' is not comprehensible to 99.9% of the citizens") is another step towards making judicial processes more accessible.

Against this backdrop, a Supreme Court pronouncement on charge sheets appears to be retrograde. Here, the Court ruled that a charge sheet filed against an accused in a criminal case is not a 'public document' within the meaning of the Right to Information Act 2005 or the Indian Evidence Act – therefore, the demand that a charge sheet in a criminal case should be uploaded on to a public website as soon as it is filed in court was untenable. The order was passed while disposing of a petition filed by a public interest litigant activist and journalist.

It is a step that may be viewed as a setback for those pushing for greater transparency in the criminal justice administration as this has several implications as far as investigating officials and victims of crime are concerned.

R.K. Raghavan

is a former Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. He teaches criminal justice and policing at the Jindal Global University, Sonepat, Haryana

Contradicting an earlier order

On the face of it, the judgment seems to contradict an order passed by the Court where, in *Youth Bar Association of India vs Union of India* (2016), it directed that the First Information Report (FIR) in any case should be on the relevant investigating agency's website within 24 hours of its registration. This was for public perusal and appropriate action. But in the Court's view now, the charge sheet (i.e., the Final Report specified by the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973) is on a footing different from the FIR, and hence cannot be shared with anyone other than the accused and the victim. This was presumably because a charge sheet was a comprehensive account of the crime in question and had vital information such as a list of prosecution witnesses and documents in support of the investigating officer's conclusions.

The top court's order against public scrutiny of a charge sheet before a trial begins is a setback to judicial reform and will only hamper the quality of an investigation

Though such material would become public knowledge during the trial, in the top court's view, any action to part with details contained in these documents even before a trial begins would be detrimental to the accused and the victim. The Court has observed that open publicity to what is contained in the final report is not within the scheme contemplated by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Times have changed

We are now a long way from the early days of the Constitution, when confidentiality was the mantra in every aspect of judicial activity. Courts then were a sacrosanct institution, where none of their actions was open to criticism or any kind of scrutiny. The slightest criticism of judicial decisions stood a fair chance of inviting contempt and punishment. We now have a situation where judges are often criticised in the media for their judicial decisions that are unconventional and not in line with popular expectations. We have even seen a judge's personal life being subjected to public debate. It is against this backdrop that the Supreme Court's decision to keep charge sheets away from public knowledge could be disapproved by those who are constantly pushing to expand the frontiers of judicial reticence.

In my view, sharing a charge sheet with the public on demand is very much in order. While it need not necessarily be posted on the website of the court concerned, public interest dictates a positive response to a request to peruse its contents. It is true that vested interests in league with the accused might engage in finding loopholes in the charge sheet with a view to undermining the prosecution case. But this is no reason to prevent members of the public from wanting to have a look at the charge sheet before commencement of the trial and be denied an opportunity to evaluate the quality of an investigation. Instead, the prospect of critical analysis by a rank outsider has the potential to enhance the soundness of an investigation and prevent tendentious prosecution against innocent individuals not based on facts. We now know how some investigations are malicious and prejudiced due to extraneous considerations. A trial court will actually benefit from outsider scrutiny of the prosecution case if a charge sheet is made available to the lay public.

A lost chance

The Supreme Court's order is a wake-up call to all investigating agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation, which have often been assailed by courts for delays in filing a charge sheet or for the poor quality of investigation. Court scrutiny is a good feature in India's criminal justice system that reasonably ensures that false prosecution of an innocent individual is only an aberration and not a rule. A chance for well-meaning members of the public to study a charge sheet, at least in important cases before a trial begins, will only ensure that prospects of loosely framed charge sheets will be fewer in number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exposé on business group

It is important to ascertain the total loan funds of each Adani group company, bank-wise and institution-wise, and the particulars of securities offered for such loans. The terms of the loans, repayment schedule and the company's ability to fulfil its loan repayment obligations as per the schedule have to be ascertained too. If the securities are the pledged stocks for any of the loans, then the exposure with regard to the current market value has to be determined and action taken to cover such exposure. It has been quite unbelievable how the stock values of the group companies could grow at such a mind-boggling rate. Such abnormalities should always be on the radar of the regulators as a standard operating procedure. It is also quite intriguing how one particular business group can venture in all areas of growing business operations in the country. It is time the Reserve Bank of India has a thorough review of the lending and investment processes adopted by banks and institutions in the country, as, ultimately, it is public money that is at stake.

S. Parthasarathy,
Chennai

While all banks are expected to report to the RBI, multi-crore high value credit lines approved for corporates and their groups by their boards and submit reports on a regular intervals to them, and when the RBI is also expected to verify all such large corporate accounts during their regular and surprise inspections of the bank branches concerned, it is shocking to find the RBI seeking the details of the loans granted to the Adani group only after the Hindenburg exposé. The failure of the RBI to have effective monitoring of such big accounts raises many questions.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Parliament stalled

The Opposition parties cannot be blamed for stalling Parliament as the government is at fault for refusing a debate on the high exposure of public financial institutions to the business group in the spotlight. This issue concerns public money and Parliament exists to discuss such important issues. A thorough probe either by a joint parliamentary committee or a panel monitored by the Supreme Court is a must.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Pathloth Dharma and his nephew Srinivas set a car and a worker on fire in Venkatapur village in Tekmal mandal of Medak district. MOHD ARIF

How a man faked his death for insurance and failed

Pathloth Dharma, an employee at the Telangana Secretariat, faked his death to get insurance money, which he hoped to use to repay the losses he had accrued from stock market trading and investing in chit funds. **Marri Ramu** reports on how Dharma's greed cost a daily-wage earner his life

At around 7 a.m. on January 9, sanitation workers Anjaiah and Shankaraiah climbed into their tractor trolley to drive to Bheemla thanda (hamlet) in Venkatapur village in Telangana. The air was cool and the drive pleasant. The mud road is flanked by a freshwater tank and lush green paddy fields. On their way, the workers noticed a two-litre plastic bottle of petrol on the side of the water tank. As they picked it up, an acrid smell hit their nostrils. The source of the smell turned out to be a burnt car lying by the wayside in a ditch. The workers moved closer and found a charred body lying in the driver's seat. They immediately rang up the village sarpanch, Lachcha Goud, who rushed to the spot and alerted the police. Within minutes, the whole village had descended on the spot, and began making wild guesses about the victim's identity, Goud recalled. As news spread about the unidentified body in the village in Tekmal mandal in Medak district, 115 km north of Hyderabad, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohini Priyadarshini went to the crime scene.

Barring the legs, the whole body was charred. Residents of the village told the police that the vehicle appeared to belong to Pathloth Dharma, 44, from Bheemla thanda. Their suspicions were strengthened when the police, while searching the area, found a bag containing photocopies of identity cards – an Aadhaar card, a driving license and a Secretariat employee card – all in the name of Dharma, who worked as an Assistant Section Officer (ASO) in the Vigilance Commission of the Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad.

As word about the employee identification card reached the thanda, Dharma's wife Neela came running to the spot. To the police, she seemed distraught. "Neela confirmed that the victim was her husband. We then began to wonder if this was an accident or a case of homicide," said the SP. With no clarity on the circumstances leading to the victim's death, the police registered a case of suspicious death under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The body was given to the family after doctors at the Medak Government Hospital performed a post-mortem. The next day, Dharma's family members performed the final rites at their agricultural field.

> Dharma began visiting bus stands and railway stations in Hyderabad to find people who look like him.
>
> **SAIDULU**
> Medak DSP

Puzzling questions

While Dharma's family members seemed to be struggling to cope with the sudden loss, the police were puzzled about the victim's legs. Dharma and most of his family members were fair-skinned people, while the victim's legs, which were not burnt, suggested that he was dark-skinned. Also, the rough skin and strong muscles suggested that he had done a lot of manual work, whereas Dharma's was a white-collared job.

Neela insisted that the victim was her husband. She claimed that the scars on his legs were the results of an earlier injury. Initially, the police explored the possibility of the death having been caused by an accident. The victim, they thought, must have lost control of the car in the darkness. There could have been sparks as the car hit a pole. But the petrol bottle suggested that there was a greater likelihood of Dharma having been murdered and the car being set on fire.

Dharma's family members told the police that it was unlikely that anyone would have a serious motive to kill him. Investigators secured the call data record of Dharma's mobile phone. The last call received by him was from his nephew, Jeevan, at 9.21 p.m. on January 8. The police picked up Jeevan and another nephew, Tejavath Srinivas. They found nothing incriminating against Jeevan. Srinivas, too, gave them convincing answers to all their questions. He told the police that he used to speak to his maternal uncle regularly on the phone about family matters.

As analysis of the calls continued, a lone call from a person, who was not on Dharma's contact list, attracted their attention, investigators said. The call was received at around 11.30 a.m. on January 7. The location of the tower indicated that the call had been made from Chegunta of Medak district, nearly 60 km west of the crime scene.

The call was made from the phone of a tea stall owner, who was apparently shocked when a squad of policemen turned up at his place in Chegunta. He said he did not know Dharma, nor had he called him. He said a customer had approached him on January 7, asking him whether he could make a call from his phone. He gave the man his phone, he told the police.

The tea stall owner said he would be able to recognise the man if he saw him again. When shown photos of Dharma and his family members, the tea stall owner recognised Srinivas but not Dharma, much to the surprise of the police. The police again picked up Srinivas, who feigned innocence. However, on repeated questioning, Srinivas made a startling admission: neither had he killed his uncle, nor was the charred body his uncle's. With this disclosure, it became clear to the police that Dharma was, in fact, alive. But this finding triggered more questions. Who then was the victim? Who killed him? And why?

Mounting debt

Dharma tried to evade the police, but was finally caught on January 17. After interrogating him, SP Priyadarshini announced that the ASO had attempted to fake his own death by killing another man. The victim was identified as Babu Maroti Galgayi of Nanded in Maharashtra. Babu, a labourer, used to take the train daily to Nizamabad and return home at night.

Dharma, who hailed from a lower middle-class family, began his career as a government school teacher. A few years later, he cleared the Group-II examination and was selected as an ASO. In 2016, he bought a pre-owned flat in Kukatpally, a suburb of Hyderabad, and got it renovated. He borrowed ₹50 lakh for this, according to the remand report. As his monthly salary was insufficient to both return loans and for his regular expenses, Dharma entered stock market trading.

Pathloth Dharma's house at Bheemla thanda in Venkatapur village. MOHD ARIF

"In the beginning, he made good gains. But later, he suffered huge losses," the SP said at a media conference. Dharma secured money from chit funds to continue online trading. He lost money again and was soon neck-deep in debt. "To come out of this debt trap, he hatched a plot to fake his death and claim insurance," the SP said. The ASO purchased nearly 25 insurance policies worth ₹7.4 crore. His plan was to murder someone and create the belief that he had been killed. His family members would then claim insurance by presenting his death certificate. Dharma planned to then join them elsewhere with a different identity, according to the remand report.

Different crime, similar modus operandi

Based on the ASO's confession, the police changed the case from suspicious death to murder by invoking Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. As the investigators started reconstructing the crime scene, they found that more stunning facts came to the fore. Dharma's modus operandi, they found, was similar to that of Dheeravath Raju, who had committed an offence of a much larger scale in Nalgonda district in 2021.

In 2021, a woman had approached Wadapally police of Nalgonda, raising doubts over the death of her 42-year-old son, D. Kotireddy. The man had been found dead beside the divider on the Narketpally-Addanki highway. It appeared to be a hit-and-run case, but the woman complained that she had noticed injuries on the back and temple of her son's head. As the autopsy report was not precise about the cause of death, the police sent a questionnaire to a team of forensic doctors who said that it could be a case of homicide.

The spot of death was close to a wine shop where the victim had worked. On being questioned, the wine shop owner and others gave clues about the movement of some persons in the area prior to the incident. The police picked up one suspect, Raju. "On interrogation, we found that he and his accomplices had committed four murders from 2013 onwards for insurance," Miryalaguda Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Y. Venkateshwara Rao recalled.

According to the DSP, Raju worked as an agent with a private insurance company. There, he learned how people get insurance benefits in the event of the demise of the policy holder. "Some 10 years ago, he managed to take an insurance policy in the name of a dead person, and by colluding with the insurance company investigator, claimed the sum by offering some money to the dead person's wife," Rao explained.

Having tasted success, Raju started identifying men who were sick or addicted to liquor, so that they could be easily lured. "He convinced family members of such persons to take insurance policies and he paid the premium," Rao said. Raju kept a watch on Kotireddy and learned that his wife was having an affair with someone. He convinced the woman and her partner to join his conspiracy, according to the remand report filed by the Wadapally police of Nalgonda in court. He paid the premium for three personal accident policies of ₹45 lakh, ₹50 lakh and ₹25 lakh in 2020. On February 24, 2021, he and his associates offered Kotireddy liquor and then murdered him and dumped his body beside the divider, the remand report stated. "They drove a tractor over the body to make it look like a road accident," Rao explained.

A plan gone wrong

Unlike Raju, Dharma did not seek the help of any outsider. "As debts mounted, he told his family members at one stage that he would kill himself so that his wife gets a job," said Medak DSP Saidulu, who supervised the investigation. Later, the family decided that it was better to kill someone else to fake Dharma's death, the police said.

"The ASO began visiting bus stands and railway stations in Hyderabad to find people who look like him," said Saidulu. In December 2022, Dharma found a labourer named Anjaiah in the Nampally railway station. He offered Anjaiah a job in his field in the thanda for a salary of ₹30,000 a month. The worker agreed.

> We had hoped that Dharma would help at least one person from each of these 26 houses in the thanda secure a government job. Instead, he has landed in prison.
>
> **TUKARAM**
> Private security guard from Bheemla thanda

The ASO then purchased a pre-owned compact sedan in the third week of December. Saidulu said Dharma and Srinivas picked up Anjaiah from the Nampally railway station on January 7. The ASO gave Anjaiah an advance sum of ₹5,000. On the way, Anjaiah repeatedly asked Dharma if they had reached the field. Irritated by his queries, Dharma asked the worker if he was drunk. Anjaiah admitted that he had consumed some liquor. Dharma was worried that this would spoil his plan. "He had heard that insurance claims are rejected if the autopsy report finds traces of alcohol in the body," Saidulu said. Instead of going to the thanda, Dharma and Srinivas decided to go to Nizamabad and execute their plan the next day. In Nizamabad, they checked into a lodge. They also took back the money from Anjaiah, afraid that he would use it to drink liquor again.

However, Anjaiah still managed to step out and drink some liquor at a wine shop with his own money, said Saidulu. However, he lost his way to the lodge. Anjaiah sought the help of a passer-by, who said it would be better for him to return to Hyderabad by catching a train at the local railway station instead of wasting time finding the lodge. Anjaiah returned to Hyderabad, while Dharma waited impatiently for him at the lodge.

Upset over the turn of events, Dharma went to Nizamabad railway station in search of a new target. He found Babu, a daily-wage earner. Dharma offered him a job with a daily pay of ₹1,000 and Babu accepted the offer. The only thing that bothered Dharma, who was bald, was Babu's head of thick hair. "So, Dharma took Babu to Basara by bus and got him tonsured there," the DSP said. On being asked why Babu agreed to this, the police said he was probably desperate for a job.

From there, Dharma rang up Srinivas and asked him to come to Basara too. The duo then began driving towards Bheemla thanda along with Babu. On the way, they bought toddy and made Babu get drunk until he was semi-unconscious. The police believe that Dharma did not think of the possibility of alcohol being detected in the body in the post-mortem report and spoiling his plans; he wanted to kill Babu at any cost and simply hoped that his plan would work.

The two men reached the outskirts of Venkatapur around midnight. They woke up Babu, made him sit in the front passenger seat, and locked the car doors after sprinkling petrol inside the vehicle. Keeping the gear shift in neutral, they pushed the car into the ditch. The vehicle hit the pole. Dharma then shattered the rear window glass. When the frightened worker tried to scramble out, Dharma hit his head with an axe. After ensuring that Babu was dead, the men pushed him onto the driver's seat and set the car on fire, the DSP said. Dharma and his nephew were arrested on January 17. The ASO's wife Neela, sister Sundha and son were arrested the next day for participating in the conspiracy.

The murder has left the residents of Bheemla thanda disturbed. Dharma, whom the residents described as a mild-mannered man, was the only one in the thanda to have landed a government job. "We had hoped that he would help at least one person from each of these 26 houses secure a government job. Instead, he has landed in prison," said Tukaram, a private security guard from the thanda. Their only role model has brought them disgrace, all thanks to his greed.

From Page One

Five judges to be posted soon, says Centre

"Mr. Attorney, something has greatly disturbed us, if the transfer order of judges is not implemented... what do you want us to do? If you keep them pending... you will make us take some very, very difficult decisions," Justice Kaul said.

Mr. Venkataramani urged the court to give him more time. The court told the government not to compel it to take judicial or administrative action and make things "uncomfortable".

"One of the Chief Justices is demitting office in 19 days, you want him to go without becoming a Chief Justice," Justice Kaul asked.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan highlighted cases in which the government has not appointed judges despite repeated reiterations by the collegium.

When advocate Amit Pai pointed to the "attack" made by public authorities on the judiciary, the Bench said the court was not affected beyond a particular stage by these remarks. It said the focus should be on the more important issue of filling judicial vacancies in the courts. Mr. Pai was referring to disparaging comments made by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju about the collegium system of judicial appointments upheld by the court in the NJAC judgment of 2015.

"We are used to handling this from all sides... It is for authorities to see what they say is appropriate or inappropriate," Justice Kaul said.

Supreme Court Bar Association president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, conveyed the Bar's approval of the collegium's four-page resolution on January 31 in which it gave no room for the government to tinker with seniority of recommended names either bifurcating them or by appointing one over the other.

"The names [five judges to the Suprepe Court] recommended earlier by the collegium by its resolution dated December 13, 2022 shall have precedence over the two names [Justices Bindal and Kumar] recommended presently for appointment to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the appointments of five judges recommended on December 13, 2022 should be notified separately and earlier in point of time before the two judges recommended by this resolution," the five-member collegium headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and including Justices Kaul, K.M. Joseph, M.R. Shah and Ajay Rastogi, had clarified in its January 31 resolution.

The court scheduled the next hearing on February 13.

SC seeks records on ban on BBC documentary

The petitions had highlighted the citizens' "fundamental right to view, form an informed opinion, critique, report on and lawfully circulate the contents of the documentary as right to freedom of speech and expression incorporates the right to receive and disseminate information".

The documentary is believed to be critical of the role of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots.

Senior advocate C.U. Singh, for the petitioners, cited cases "where officials more loyal than the king," have blocked screening in university campuses and even rusticated students for watching the film.

The students of Rajasthan Central University in Ajmer were suspended for watching the film. The Jawaharlal Nehru University administration had issued an advisory to cancel a screening to maintain "peace and harmony" in the campus. The petitioners referred to reports about detention of students and presence of riot police at Jamia Milia Islamia campus in Delhi.

"We have asked them to produce the records. If they are not doing it, we will see what should be done. Let them file their reply and you can file your rejoinder," Justice Khanna addressed Mr. Singh. The senior lawyer said the blocking order, kept "secret" as of now, is required to be put up in the public domain in a time-bound manner, in 48 hours, according to the law. He asked the court to advance the date of the hearing.

"April is the shortest date we can give. The government can file its reply in three weeks and you (petitioners) can file your rejoinder in two weeks after that," Justice Khanna said.

The court also issued notice in a separate petition filed by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma and tagged it along with Mr. Ram's petition.

The petition filed by the senior journalist and the others argue that the Ministry, under Rule 16 (3) of the Information Technology Rules of 2021 and Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act 2000, had on January 20, sent a legal request to Twitter India to block 50 tweets concerning and even containing links to the documentary.

The tweets of Mr. Bhushan and Ms. Moitra was among those taken down. YouTube links of the video were blocked, the petition said.

The petitioners have referred to reports of how the series is reported to be critical about Mr. Modi in connection with the 2002 riots. Mr. Modi wasimbroglio Gujarat Chief Minister at the time of the violence in the State.

The petition noted that Kanchan Gupta, senior adviser of the Ministry, had tweeted that the documentary was blocked on YouTube and Twitter following the orders of the Secretary of the Ministry on January 20 under emergency powers in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. The petitioners have urged the court to call for and quash orders directly or indirectly censoring the documentary. They said that the January 20 order and subsequent proceedings were not in the public domain.

Opposition persists with its demand for probe into Adani row

Proceedings in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha stalled as members stage protests, they seek investigation into business practices of the group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Burning issue: Opposition members moved adjournment motions in both House to discuss the allegations against Adani Group. PTI

Proceedings in both Houses of Parliament remained paralysed for the second day on Friday as the Opposition members persisted with their demand for a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee into allegations of fraud made by U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research against the Adani Group.

Opposition members in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha moved adjournment motions to discuss the issue as they alleged that public financial institutions such as the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the State Bank of India (SBI) had become vulnerable because of their exposure to the group.

The Opposition's stance was decided at a meeting convened by Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge in his chamber. Sixteen parties attended the meeting.

Soon after the Lok Sabha met for the day, the Opposition members were on their feet shouting slogans and demanding a probe into the tanking of the Adani Group stocks. They also demanded an investigation into the business practices of the corporate group.

Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House until 2 p.m. When the Lok Sabha met post-lunch, BJP member Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the Chair, allowed the laying of parliamentary papers amid sloganeering and then adjourned the House for the day.

11 minutes

The Rajya Sabha functioned for a total of 11 minutes as the Opposition continued to press for a debate on the impact of the Hindenburg findings on public sector banks. Fifteen Opposition members moved a motion under Rule 267 demanding a debate on "frauds in investment by LIC, SBI, Public Sector banks and other financial institutions losing market value, endangering the hard earned savings of crores of Indians". Six of these notices were from the Congress, including one by Mr. Kharge. Members of the AAP, the CPI, the NCP and the BRS also moved similar notices.

"Parliament adjourned for another day because Opposition demands a JPC on PM-linked Adani issue that is playing havoc on the savings of crores of Indians. Modi *sarkar* says MPs are wasting public money. What about the crores people have lost over the last few days of MahaMegaScam?" asked Congress chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh in a tweet.

PIL petition in SC seeks probe against Hindenburg, its founder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A public interest litigation plea filed by advocate Manohar Lal Sharma has urged the Supreme Court to order a probe against U.S.-based firm Hindenburg Research and its founder, Nathan Anderson.

The petition has been filed in the wake of a report by the short-seller firm which led to a dip in the value of Adani Group's shares in the stock market. Mr. Sharma accused the U.S. firm of deliberately releasing the report against the Adani Group just before its ₹20,000-crore follow-on public offer.

'Is it not fraud?'

The petition asked if it is not a fraud to "intentionally short-sell to crash stock in share market". It also asked why market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) did not suspend trading in the short-selling stock to save investors from losing their money.

"They secured billions of profits by butchering citizens of India. However, the SEBI did not suspend trading in the stock and allowed short sellers to exploit innocent investors," the petition alleged.

The Adani Group has denied all allegations by the firm.

'No proposal to use remote EVMs in upcoming election'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kiren Rijiju

The government on Friday said there was no proposal to use remote electronic voting machines (RVM) in any upcoming election. The RVMs would also not be used for NRI voters.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said in a written reply that according to the Election Commission, it has not proposed to introduce the RVM for upcoming election in the country.

While the Lok Sabha election would be held in 2024, several Assembly elections are scheduled to be held this year.

The commission has said that remote EVMs would allow migrant voters to exercise their franchise. It circulated a concept note to all national and State political parties on December 28 and solicited written views from them by January 31.

The commission on January 16 invited parties for the demonstration of a prototype. However, the demonstration could not be carried out as the parties raised objection to the lack of consultations. The date for submission of written replies was postponed to February 28.

"The prototype RVM developed by ECIL is a robust and stand-alone system based on the existing EVMs... Independently, various statutes – the Representation of People Act, 1950, and the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Conduct of Election Rules and various guidelines and instructions of the EC will ensure that the confirmation/genuineness of voter identity is verified," Mr. Rijiju said. He clarified that the commission had informed him that the RVM was not proposed for the use of NRI voters.

Replying to a separate question, Mr. Rijiju said there was no proposal to regulate the finances of political parties.

"Electoral reforms are continuous and ongoing process and in order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country, the government, after examining various proposals of the Election Commission of India, implements the same through various amendment Acts from time to time," he said.

Parliament is 'North Star' of democracy, says Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up the Legislature versus Judiciary debate, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday said that Parliament is the "North Star" of democracy.

The remark came just days after Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's said at a seminar that the Basic Structure doctrine was the North Star that "gives direction to the interpreters and implementers of the Constitution when the path ahead is convoluted".

Without directly referring to the CJI's comment, Mr. Dhankhar, while chiding the Opposition members who were demanding a debate into the Adani issue in the Rajya Sabha, said, "Parliament is the essence of democracy. Parliament is the North Star of democracy. It is a place for discussion and deliberation to realise the aspirations and dreams of the people and not a place of disturbance. We are required to work in accordance with rules."

Mr. Dhankhar has been consistent in his criticism of the Judiciary "overstepping its boundaries". He has also questioned the landmark 1973 *Kesavananda Bharati* verdict on the Basic Structure doctrine. He said the verdict set a "bad precedent" and if any authority questioned Parliament's power to amend the Constitution, it would be "difficult to say we are a democratic nation".

Commenting on the variance between the stance taken by Mr. Dhankhar and Jusice Chandrachud, Congress MP Vivek Tankha tweeted, "Parliament is the essence of democracy, whilst the Basic Structure doctrine is the bed rock & spirit of democracy. And we all are soldiers of democracy. Long live Indian Democracy."

Govt. extends deadline for laggard solar scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The deadline for a key scheme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to install 30,000 MW solar power capacity in rural India by 2022, has now been pushed to March 2026, Power Minister R.K. Singh told the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) has three parts: having farmers instal solar power plants worth 10,000 MW; installing 20 lakh solar-powered agriculture pumps that aren't connected to the grid (off-grid), and converting 15 lakh agriculture pumps, already connected to the grid, into solar.

As of December 31, 2022, only 88.46 MW of solar capacity had been added; 181,058 solar pumps had been installed and 1,174 grid-connected pumps converted.

SC yet to respond on guidelines for judges' appointment: Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has written to the Chief Justice of India, emphasising the need to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Lok Sabha on Friday.

"The government in its communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India has emphasised the need to finalise the MoP. The response is yet to be received," he replied to a question by Congress member K. Muraleedharan.

In response to another question by Sougata Ray (Trinamool Congress) and Deepak Baij (Congress) on the need to reform the collegium system, he said the government had suggested to the Supreme Court a Search-cum-Evaluation Committee for the appointment of Supreme Court judges and Chief Justices of High Courts. This committee, he said, should have a representative who was nominated by the Government of India. He noted that for the appointment of judges to the High Courts, the committee should consist of a representative each nominated by the Centre and the respective State governments.

"The existing MoP stipulates that if the Chief Minister desires to recommend the name of any person, he/she should forward the same for consideration. However, since this has not been put in actual practice, the names recommended by the Chief Minister can also be received by the Search-cum-Evaluation Committee along with the names taken from senior judges outside the collegium and eligible candidates taken from the database [Judicial Officers and advocates] as maintained by the proposed secretariat,"Mr. Rijiju said.

Eye on polls, Telangana BJP gears up to hit the road again

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Telangana BJP will hold nearly 11,500 street-corner meetings between February 10 and 25 in a bid to continue the momentum, the party says, it received during the padyatra by State unit chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar last year. The State is scheduled to go to the polls later this year. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also slated to visit the State after the end of the first part of the Budget Session of Parliament.

Mr. Kumar, who was lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his padyatra during the BJP's national executive meet held in January in New Delhi, said the street corner meetings would be kept small, "not more than 100-150 people", and would be gradually scaled up into bigger meetings in every district and then cluster of districts.

"I travelled through 57 Assembly constituencies during the padyatra. People were responsive, they were forthcoming with regard to their issues with the Telangana government and K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR). This programme is a kind of continuation of our constant engagement at the micro level with the concerns of the people," he said.

He added that the government under KCR had been "peddling an image" of being farmer-friendly but was "shortchanging" farmers instead. "The Ryathu Bandhu scheme is giving ₹6,000 per farmer, but during the yatra and through other interactions, it's clear that nearly ₹18,000 worth of other subsidies by the Central government, where a matching grant has to be done by the State government, is not being disbursed at all."

SC comes to the aid of terminally ill patients

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has removed "insurmountable obstacles" for the implementation of advance medical directives given by terminally ill patients, who are beyond cure or hope, to withdraw medical treatment and die with dignity.

The five-member Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph had broadly outlined the order in court on January 24. The final order was published on Friday.

The court simplifies certain directions of an earlier Constitution Bench, while allowing passive euthanasia, on how to implement advance medical directives. An advance medical directive (AMD), according to the 2018 judgment, required not only the signatures of two independent witnesses, but had also to be counter-signed by a Judicial Magistrate.

In its current order, the court said it need to be signed by the executor/patient and independent witnesses in the presence of a notary or gazetted officer who would record his/her satisfaction that the AMD was voluntary and executed without coercion. Copies of the AMD would be handed over to the close relatives, the family physician and a competent officer of the municipal corporation or panchayat concerned. The AMD, if the executor chooses, may be made part of the digital health records.

At the time of its implementation, that is when the executor is terminally ill with no hope of cure or recovery, the treating doctor at the hospital would ascertain the genuineness of the AMD, compare it with the copy in the digital records, consult with relatives about the option that withdrawal of care would be the "best choice".

The hospital would then form a primary medical board with the treating doctor and two specialists who would verify the condition of the patient within 48 hours. Then a secondary medical board would be constituted with the Chief Medical Officer of the district nominating the members. This board would again re-ascertain the patient's condition within 48 hours and give its findings on whether or not to withdraw medical care or life support. The hospital would then have to convey the findings of both the primary and secondary board along with the consent of the relatives to the Judicial Magistrate before giving effect to the AMD.

In case, the boards refuse to give effect to the AMD, the person named in it or the treating doctor or the hospital could approach the High Court concerned. The Chief Justice of the HC would constitute a Division Bench, which can set up an independent committee of expert doctors in the fields of general medicine, nephrology, neurology, oncology, radiology and critical care.

'BJP used Tripura as lab to create a model to spread hatred'

Our pre-poll agreement was spontaneous because we realised the need to save the Constitution and India's democratic fibre, say the CPI(M) State secretary and the Congress State president

INTERVIEW

Jitendra Chowdhury & Birajit Sinha

Rahul Karmakar

The Left Front and Congress have forged a seat-sharing agreement for the February 16 Assembly polls in Tripura, in a bid to eject the "divisive and dangerous" BJP from the State. Jitendra Chowdhury, the State secretary of the CPI (M) and candidate from the Subroom seat, and Birajit Sinha, State Congress president and the party's candidate from Kailashahar say the alliance was made to save Tripura. Excerpts:

Did the Left Front and Congress keep the failed West Bengal experiment in mind while striking a seat-sharing deal?

JC: One cannot compare West Bengal with Tripura, two completely different States with different dynamics. There's a desperation to be rid of the jungle raj and make Tripura BJP-*mukt* (free). For the last five years, the BJP has used Tripura as a laboratory to create a model for spreading hatred across the country and destroying all constitutional values. Our pre-poll agreement was spontaneous because the people of the State have realised that we need to give a message to the country that our Constitution and the secular, democratic fibre have to be saved by first uprooting BJP from Tripura.

Jitendra Chowdhury (right) and Birajit Sinha.

How are the people taking your pre-poll understanding?

JC: There were, are and will always be differences between us [the Left Front and the Congress].

We were like next-door neighbours not on talking terms, realising after five years of misrule and oppression by the BJP that if the house of one is on fire, the other cannot but jump in to douse the flames and save his own house from being turned into ashes.

BS: People are warming to our understanding because they see the bigger picture and want to take revenge for the five years of suffering the BJP inflicted upon them. One cannot avoid disgruntlement at local levels owing to the strategic tie-up, but we are telling our supporters that we have boarded the same boat and sailing in deep waters.

If there is any bid to sink the boat everyone will drown, so we need to keep the boat afloat.

We have overcome our differences over seat-sharing and are strategising our joint campaign.

Will the failure in striking a pre-poll deal with Tipra Motha affect your chances?

JC: The efforts for an alliance were not one-sided. The Tipra Motha chairman (Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma) publicly said we needed to come to an understanding to avoid a split in the anti-BJP votes.

We tried till the very last moment to have a seat-sharing arrangement but we still have time for backing the strongest candidate, whether he or she is from Tipra Motha or Left Front-Congress combine, to ensure the BJP's defeat.

Does the alliance agree with Motha's 'Greater Tipraland' call?

JC: We have no issues if Greater Tipraland translates into the socio-economic uplift of the indigenous people. But we will oppose it [if it] disturbs the territorial integrity.

What are the challenges you are likely to face?

BS: Unprecedented violence perpetrated by the ruling dispensation and the blatant misuse of government machinery by the BJP to retain power at any cost.

(Read the full interview at bit.ly/tripurainterview)

Left Front promises jobs for retrenched teachers in Tripura

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

Left Front leaders releasing the manifesto in Agartala.

Jobs for retrenched school teachers, one of the main issues the BJP had flagged in 2018 to come to power in Tripura, and the highest possible autonomy for areas under a tribal council, were among 81 promises in the Left Front manifesto released in Agartala on Friday. The front comprises the CPI(M) contesting 43 seats, the CPI, the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the All India Forward Bloc contesting a seat each. The fifth constituent of the front, the CPI (Marxist-Leninist) fielded a candidate on its own after it was not allotted one.

Narayan Kar, the Tripura Left Front convener, outlined the promises that included jobs for at least 2.5 lakh people in government, semi-government and private sectors in the next five years, free electricity for up to 50 units per family, land allotment to landless people and a ban on the privatisation of government-run educational institutions.

"We shall also ensure jobs for the 10,323 retrenched school teachers and contractual employees fired during the BJP regime and the highest possible autonomy for the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) through a constitutional amendment," he said.

"We shall work to amend the Constitution to provide maximum economic and political autonomy to the TTAADC without disturbing the territory of the State," Mr. Kar said.

Nadda, Himanta Sarma blow poll bugle in Tripura

BJP chief says that 'double engine' government is working for the welfare of Tripura people; the Congress-Left Front planning to organise rallies soon with participation of star campaigners

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

The BJP on Friday launched a star-studded campaign in the Assembly election-bound Tripura. Party's national president J.P. Nadda addressed two rallies while other leaders, including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Smriti Irani also campaigned.

Actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty joined a road show in support of the party candidates in east Agartala.

The Congress, which has forged an electoral alliance with the CPI(M), is yet to confirm a list of star campaigners. Pradesh Congress Committee chief Birajit Sinha said the list had got approval of the Election Commission and they would soon organise election meetings in consultation with the CPI(M)-led Left Front leaders.

Grand start: BJP president J.P. Nadda addresses a poll rally at Amarpur in Tripura on Friday. ANI

The Trinamool Congress said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee would visit the State next week to campaign.

Mr. Nadda addressed rallies at Amarpur in Gomati district in south and Kumarghat in north Tripura as the saffron party started a high decibel campaign to retain power in the State. During the break, Mr. Nadda, Chief Minister Manik Saha and other leaders visited the residence of a party supporter to have lunch.

Addressing both the rallies, Mr. Nadda appealed to people to vote for the BJP for continuation of development activities – first spearheaded by Biplab Kumar Deb and later Dr. Manik Saha as Chief Ministers. He said a double engine government at the Centre and the State were working for the welfare of people, development and restoration of peace in the State.

Rebel challenge

The Krishnapur Assembly is important as the BJP candidate Bikash Debbarma is facing a challenge from party rebel Atul Debbarma who won the seat in 2018 and contesting as an independent this time. It also has the presence of candidates from the TIPRA and the Congress-Left alliance.

Mr. Sarma appealed to vote for the development in the area. "In the past I used to find only red [CPI (M)] offices in Krishnapur which caused huge suffering to the people, but they are now not found", he said in Hindi.

Saradha scam case: ED attaches assets of several 'beneficiaries'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has attached assets worth more than ₹6 crore of "beneficiaries" like Nalini Chidambaram, wife of Congress leader P. Chidambaram, and former CPI(M) MLA Debendranath Biswas, among others in the Saradha money laundering case.

"These properties were owned by the Saradha Group and other persons, who were the beneficiaries of Proceeds of Crime generated by the Saradha Group of Companies. The beneficiaries include Smt. Nalini Chidambaram, Debabrata Sarkar, Debendranath Biswas (former IPS officer and ex-CPM MLA) and M/s Anubhuti Printers and Publications owned by late Shri Anjan Dutta, ex-Minister in Assam," the ED said.

The statement added that the agency has "provisionally attached" movable assets worth ₹3.30 crore and immovable assets with value of over ₹3 crore in its ongoing investigation.

The agency had registered a case against the Saradha Group of Companies in 2013 on the basis of FIRs by the Kolkata Police and the CBI.

The scam had rocked the State politics in 2013 when the Saradha Group, which ran a chit fund scam with operations spread over West Bengal, Assam and Odisha, went bust affecting thousands of depositors.

Preneet Kaur suspended from Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Preneet Kaur, Congress MP from Patiala and wife of former CM Amarinder Singh, was on Friday suspended from the party for alleged "anti-party activities".

The party's disciplinary committee asked her to explain why she should not be expelled.

More funds for NREGS if needed, says Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The cut in budgetary outlay for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will not affect the programme's objective of providing wage employment on demand and additional funds will be made available as and when required, the Ministry of Rural Development said.

The Budget allocated ₹60,000 crore for MGNREGS for 2023-24. "Whenever additional fund is required, the Ministry of Finance is requested to provide it. Government is committed to release funds for wage and material payments for implementation of the scheme, as per the provisions of the Act and guidelines applicable for Centre and States," the Ministry said.

BJP MPs seek clarity on tax regime, cut in MGNREGS allocation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MPs on Friday interacted with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the merits and demerits of the new and old income tax regimes at a briefing here on the Union Budget.

Members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were present at the briefing on the Budget, and the BJP has drawn up a massive outreach programme explaining the main highlights of Union Budget. "The Finance Minister went into great detail about the new and old income tax schemes, and the changed slabs. Tax issues always require this kind of explanations, they are never easy, and many MPs had queries on the relative merits and demerits," said a BJP MP.

There were also questions on the slashing of allocation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Budget allocated ₹60,000 crore for the Scheme is 18% lower than the Budget Estimates of ₹73,000 crore for FY2023, and 33% lower than the Revised Estimates of ₹89,000 crore for the scheme.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : E-Tender No. 86/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN, ADB aided KUWSIP Water supply system operations and maintenance and system upgrades in Kochi, **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 17700, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 26-04-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 0484 - 2361653.

Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kochi

KWA-JB-GL-6-1545-2022-23

DIRECTOR WORKS (EO)
Rajasthan University Of Veterinary & Animal Science, Bikaner (Raj.)

क्रमांक : F( )/DW(EO)/RAJUVAS/2022-23/1533-1543 दिनांक :- 31/01/2023

UBN No. :- VAU2223WLOB00143

निविदा सूचना संख्या – 18 वर्ष 2022 – 2023

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशु विज्ञान विश्वविधालय, बीकानेर की ओर से विश्वविधालय में विभिन्न स्थानों पर निर्माण कार्यो के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में, इस विश्वविधालय में एवं अन्य विश्वविधालयों में, राज्य सरकार एवं राज्य सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों तथा केन्द्र सरकार व केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों, जो कि राज्य सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के समकक्ष हो, पंजीकृत संवेदको से ई – टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑन लाईन निविदा प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बधित विवरण वेब साईट **www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp, www.rajuvas.org, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

राज.संवाद/सी/22/13985

निदेशक कार्य (भू.अ.)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddypalya, Bengaluru - 560 032.

No.EE/HBL/TEND/34/2022-23 Date: 02.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amt. put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Comprehensive Development to Road and Drains to 13th Cross, AECS Layout, and surrounding areas in Ward No. 67, Sanjaya nagar.	99.00	Rs.1,98,000/- (Rs. 1 lakh through e-procurement & remaining amount through BG.
2	Improvements to roads and Drains from Hebbala Flyover towards Guddadahalli Circle and surrounding areas in Ward No. 68, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli.	99.00	Rs.1,98,000/- (Rs. 1 lakh through e-procurement & remaining amount through BG.
3	Comprehensive Development to Roads and Drains to Kempaiah Layout and surrounding areas in Ward No. 69, Manorayanapalya.	98.00	Rs.1,96,000/- (Rs. 1 lakh through e-procurement & remaining amount through BG.
4	Comprehensive Development to Roads and DrainsGeddalahalli Village Main Road via 80ft Road, RMV 2nd Stage and surrounding areas in Ward No. 66, Radhakrishna Temple..	100.00	Rs.2,00,000/- (Rs. 1 lakh through e-procurement & remaining amount through BG.

BG should be submit before opening of technical bid. **1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal. **2)** Pre-bid meeting: **08.02.2023 at 3.00 p.m 3)** Last date for uploading the filled proposals: **13.02.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of technical bids: **14.02.2023 after 4.30 p.m. 5)** Opening of Financial bids: **15.02.2023 after 11.00 a.m.** Further details can be obtained from office of the undersigned or GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Hebbal) Division.

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel.-(0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. B-IV-H-(H&D)-36/2021 4305 / Bhubaneswar, the 03rd Feb., 2023

Invitation For Bids - 1st Corrigendum
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 48 / 2022-23

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. **C.E. (B) - 48 / 2022-23**

1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**, during the period from **dt.10.02.2023 to 17.00 hours of dt.24.02.2023** instead of **dt.03.02.2023 to dt.17.02.2023** for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. **Online** bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.24.02.2023** instead of **dt.17.02.2023.**
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.27.02.2023** instead of **dt.20.02.2023**.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

B-1217: OIPR-34117/11/0115/2223

By E_Mail / e-Despatch
E_Mail ID:- serwcbaripada@gmail.com ; Ph. No. 06792-261343/261344,Gangraj, Baripada
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender-Road N.C.B. No.263 for 2022-23
Letter No. 311 / Date : 2.2.23 //

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road from NH-49 to Ramatirtha (Crocodile Project-Cum-Eco-Tourism Complex) under OMBADC in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2021-22**
2. Total No. of Work : **01 No. (One)**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.135.10 Lakhs** (Approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As per annexure..**
5. Period of Completion : **As per annexure..**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle, Baripada. Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W.Circle, Baripada. Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	Road On-line N.C.B. No.263	Dt.07.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.21.02.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.20.02.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Baripada.

O-1755: OIPR-25181/11/0064/2223

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRI & DD e-NIT

Works: 81 nos. Water Detention Structure (27 nos. Packages in 2nos RFB/e-NIT in total) in different Blocks of Bankura District under WBADMIP PHASE-II, PROGRAMME. FB/e NIT No's: -59/2022-23/WBADMIP/EE DPMU/BANK & 60/2022-23/WBADMIP/EE DPMU/BANK. e-Tender ID's are – 2023_WRDD_463315_1, 2023_WRDD_463322_1, 2023_WRDD_463325_1, 2023_WRDD_463329_1, 2023_WRDD_463332_1, 2023_WRDD_463336_1, 2023_WRDD_463337_1, 2023_WRDD_463359_1, 2023_WRDD_463365_1, 2023_WRDD_463369_1, 2023_WRDD_463371_1, 2023_WRDD_463373_1, 2023_WRDD_463377_1, 2023_WRDD_463380_1, 2023_WRDD_463382_1, 2023_WRDD_463385_1, 2023_WRDD_463389_1, 2023_WRDD_463392_1, 2023_WRDD_463393_1, 2023_WRDD_463395_1, 2023_WRDD_463406_1, 2023_WRDD_463410_1, 2023_WRDD_463413_1, 2023_WRDD_463414_1, 2023_WRDD_463417_1, 2023_WRDD_463420_1, 2023_WRDD_463422_1. (TOTAL 27 NOS Packages in 2 Nos RFB/e-NIT), Estimated value put to tender minimum Rs. 90,35,632.00 & maximum Rs. 1,89,99,481.00. Last dropping date is 06.03.2022 up to 18.00 Hrs. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbtenders.gov.in for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer, DPMU, Bankura, WBADMIP

ICA- T 2099 (3)/2023

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB, Ayapakkam, Chennai – 600077.

ONLINE / WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Candidates are invited for Online/Walk-in interview for the project post of **Research Assistant, Consultant (Med/Non-med), Semi Skilled Worker** on contract basis under various Projects.

For application proforma and other details regarding qualification and experience, etc., please refer to **www.nie.gov.in**

Director

INBRIEF

Air India flight returns to airport after engine snag

An Air India Express flight from Abu Dhabi to Kozhikode in Kerala, with 184 passengers onboard, was on Friday forced to turn back shortly after take off following a glitch in one of the two engines. The Boeing 737 aircraft took off from Abu Dhabi at around 1.50 a.m. local time. During climb at 1,000 feet, its left engine witnessed a flame-out following which the pilots returned the flight to the airport. A flame-out is not a fire, rather it is an engine failure that occurs when the flame that normally burns during a flight goes out. "The technical snag was identified while taking off and the aircraft landed back safely, following all laid down procedures," the airline said in a press statement.

Now, at least 2 Mbps speed required to get broadband tag

The definition of broadband now requires a minimum speed of 2 Mbps from telecom operators, a change from the previous requirement since 2013, of 512Kbps. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the change in a January 25 gazette notification published on Thursday. "Broadband is a data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the minimum download speed of 2 Mbps to an individual subscriber from the point of presence (POP) of the service provider intending to provide Broadband service," the new definition says.

19 families shifted as houses in J&K village develop cracks

Nineteen families were shifted after around 21 structures developed large cracks due to the sinking surface in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. "One side of the slope is slipping. The situation aggravated last night when we received panic calls around midnight. A total of 21 houses, one masjid and a madrassa were evacuated. The area is under a red alert," Athar Amin Zargar, Sub-District Magistrate, Thathri, said. Union Minister Jitendra Singh said a Geological Survey of India team is on its way to the affected spot to study the underlying causative factors.

HC to hear PIL seeking to disqualify V-P, Law Minister

The Bombay High Court will hear on February 9 a petition filed by a group of lawyers seeking action against Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju over their comments "showing lack of faith in the Constitution by attacking institutions, including the Supreme Court". The public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Bombay Lawyers Association and its chairman Ahmed Abidi sought a direction from the High Court to disqualify Mr. Dhankhar and Mr. Rijiju and bar them from holding the constitutional posts as they had allegedly launched a "frontal attack on the judiciary" and expressed a lack of faith in the Constitution.

Indian company's eye drops linked with 55 adverse events in U.S.

Global Pharma Healthcare recalls product from U.S. market after CDC warns of infections and loss of vision; contamination has been suspected

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Using contaminated artificial tears poses risks of infections that could result in blindness or death, the FDA has warned. FILE PHOTO

Chennai-based Global Pharma Healthcare has recalled its eye drops from the U.S. market after U.S. government agency Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that several people have suffered from adverse events that are possibly associated with the use of the product. The eye drops are not sold in India.

The CDC had alerted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that to date, there were 55 cases of adverse events, including eye infections, permanent loss of vision, and one death with a bloodstream infection. The CDC was investigating a multi-State outbreak of drug-resistant infection cases, which it linked to the use of "Artificial Tears" lubricant eye drops distributed by EzriCare, LLC and Delsam Pharma in the U.S.

A warning issued by the FDA on Friday instructed consumers and doctors to not purchase and stop using the product. "Using contaminated artificial tears increases risks of eye infections that could result in blindness or death," the warning said.

Manufacturing issues

The FDA had recommended the recall due to manufacturing violations, including lack of appropriate microbial testing, formulation issues (the company manufactures and distributes opthalmic drugs in multi-use bottles, without adequate preservatives), and lack of proper controls concerning tamper-evident packaging.

The U.S. agencies were alerted while investigating an outbreak of a rare, drug-resistant strain of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria. The company has been placed on the U.S. FDA's import alert list for an inadequate response to a records request. This alert is aimed at preventing the company's products from entering the U.S.

(With PTI inputs)

IAF to procure new transport aircraft to replace AN-32

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (RFI) has initiated the process to find a replacement for the AN-32 transport aircraft in service.

It has issued a Request For Information (RFI) for the procurement of a Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) with a carrying capacity of 18 to 30 tonnes.

The RFI was issued on December 9, 2022, and the earlier bid submission date of February 3 has now been extended till March 31. "It is envisaged to commence deliveries of platform within 36 months of signing of Contract," the RFI said.

The RFI has asked aircraft manufacturers to indicate the scope of work related to MTA, which would be undertaken under Make in India under appropriate category with estimate of indigenous content mandatorily. "Methods to enhance indigenisation and to setup dedicated manufacturing line, including design, integration and manufacturing processes in India, either through its own subsidiary or in a joint venture," the RFI said.

Railways working to augment ticket processing capacity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Server revamp to enable booking of 2.25 lakh tickets and handling of 40 lakh enquiries per minute

The passenger reservation and ticketing systems of the Indian Railways will be revamped, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday in a post-Budget press briefing.

Currently, the IT systems of the Railways can process 25,000 ticket bookings in one minute. "The plan is to augment this capacity to 2.25 lakh tickets per minute. This will require a revamp of servers at the back end. The IT infrastructure, including software, will have to be upgraded to ensure that the website runs on a faster speed," Mr. Vaishnaw said. The upgradation is expected to be complete by September.

The Railways receives four lakh ticketing enquiries a minute. "We plan to augment capacity to take 40 lakh enquiries a minute," he said.

In the Union Budget, the Indian Railways has received an outlay of ₹2.4 lakh crore. A part of it would be utilised to lay new tracks. For the next year, the target is to lay 7,000 km. "We are well on target to achieve the current year target of 4,500 km," he said.

For smooth travel between towns, Vande Metro trains will be launched over shorter distances, in a range of 25 km-60 km. "Cities like Sitapur and Lucknow or Bhubaneshwar and Cuttack will be connected via these trains."

1,000 new flyovers

He said efforts to link towns and villages across railway lines were ongoing and 10,438 flyovers and underpasses had been constructed but "this is not a sufficient number". "We plan to construct 1,000 new flyovers and underpasses with a new design element to prevent flooding," Mr. Vaishnaw added.

On the "One Station One Product Scheme", Mr. Vaishnaw said 594 stalls were operational at 550 stations, opening up a new market for local artisans and women self-help groups. The scheme will be expanded to 750 stations.

SC refuses to refer conversion issue to Law Commission

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused a plea to refer to the Law Commission of India the question whether "forcible conversion" should be made a separate offence relating to religion under the Indian Penal Code. "Why should we go about referring this to the Law Commission?" Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked.

The Chief Justice's query was in response to a submission by senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Ashwini Upadhyay, that forcible conversion ought to be made an offence under Chapter 15 in the Penal Code.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, opposing Mr. Upadhyay, said the latter's petition that "deceitful and forcible religious conversion" was rampant in India was a vexatious one. He said the petition contained "unpalatable" remarks about minority religions.

The court gave time to the State governments which have enacted religious conversion laws to respond to a petition filed seeking transfer of various cases challenging these laws from the High Courts concerned to the top court for an authoritative ruling on their legality.

Explained | What are the existing laws on religious conversions?
bit.ly/conversionlaws

India to showcase success in rural and archaeological tourism at G-20 meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ladpura Khas village of Madhya Pradesh, Khonoma village of Nagaland and heritage sites like Dholavira will be showcased as success stories of rural and archaeological tourism by India during the first tourism working group meeting of the G-20 nations to be held at the Rann of Kutch.

Rural tourism and archaeological tourism will be the topics for two side events at the first tourism ministerial meeting of the G-20 from February 7 to 9 where India will highlight the most successful and innovative initiatives of these from various parts of India, Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh said on Friday. Ladpura Khas was nominated as the Best Rural Tourism Village by the UNWTO.

Responsible travel: A view of Nagaland's Khonoma village, which will be showcased as a model for ecotourism. FILE PHOTO

India will also present the innovative model of community based Astro-tourism that involves rural homestays and community spaces that are completely run by villagers and provides travellers an integrated experience of stargazing along with cultural immersion in the Himalayas, while Nagaland's Khonoma Village will present the model of Ecotourism Management Board that develops Rural Tourism Products and promotes responsible travel.

The success of developing many rural tourism products in and around Rann of Kutch will also be presented.

"The idea is to present rural tourism as a means of community empowerment and poverty alleviation," Mr. Singh said.

Exam paper leak in J&K: CBI searches 37 locations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches at 37 locations in Jammu & Kashmir in connection with the alleged irregularities in the accounts assistants' recruitment examination.

"The searches were carried out on 30 premises in Jammu, two each in Reasi and Rajouri, and one each in Doda, Sambha and Udhampur. They are linked to some J&K government and forest officials, two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, some middlemen and other gang members," said an agency official.

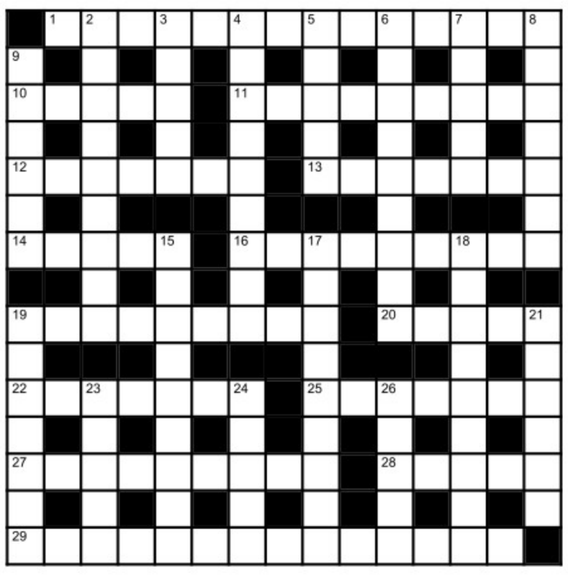
In November last year, the agency had registered the case against 20 accused and began probe into the alleged irregularities in the examination conducted by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

TH CROSSWORD + 13780

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 With sales force arranged in a straight line (2,3,4,5)
10 Upset with loss of 150 (5)
11 Look suggestively over one, it is French county (9)
12 Starts with incoming delivery and gone - out for a duck (7)
13 Last horse, not hard to back (7)
14 Animal died after dash... (5)
16 ...in turn ace became erratic (9)
19 Auditors are very careful - it can't take off (9)
20 Clear, clear around midnight (5)
22 Abnormally moist, is it because of cell division? (7)
25 She's probably nearing old age (7)
27 Papyrus paper for a music maker (4,5)
28 Overhaul for a top guard at a Soviet security agency (5)
29 Present story evokes very little interest (7,7)

Down

2 Youth gets up since lady's invited a lawyer (5,4)
3 High on the rim, don't take chances (5)
4 Cryptic clue - a land for a plant (9)
5 Separate OBE for an oil producer? (5)
6 Fall underground to gain firsthand knowledge (5,4)
7 Trainee not new to a football club (5)
8 Issue about egg for a theatre professional (7)
9 Fights to stop live study (6)
15 Completed procuring assorted crops - something to eat (4,5)
17 Keen to see movie go up, it's extremely cold (9)
18 Somehow nail Arden, that will give you a high (9)
19 Arrived with building block, ends in shortage of material (7)
21 Go, sweetheart find some work in a big city (6)
23 Article on individual right belongs to them (5)
24 See, when it's dark you change partner (5)
26 A horse starts running off, showing violent behaviour (5)

SUDOKU

			7	3		6		
2			1			9		7
		3					8	
	5		9				6	8
6	9				3		5	
	7					2		
3		8			4			1
		4		1	9			

No.SS5699 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	R	S	E	N	I	C	■	L	A	D	R	O	N	E
D	■	P	■	E	■	A	■	O	■	W	■	P	■	N
R	H	O	N	E	■	S	A	C	R	I	S	T	A	N
I	■	O	■	D	■	U	■	U	■	N	■	I	■	E
F	U	N	N	Y	F	A	R	M	■	D	A	C	C	A
T	■	B	■	■	■	R	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	D
■	H	I	N	D	■	I	N	F	R	I	N	G	E	■
■	■	L	■	I	■	N	■	A	■	N	■	A	■	■
■	F	L	A	G	R	A	N	T	■	G	O	L	F	■
C	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	C	■	■	■	I	■	A
R	A	B	A	T	■	A	D	H	O	M	I	N	E	M
O	■	E	■	A	■	S	■	A	■	A	■	G	■	U
C	H	A	R	L	A	T	A	N	■	G	R	A	I	L
U	■	N	■	I	■	E	■	C	■	I	■	L	■	E
S	P	O	N	S	O	R	■	E	S	C	H	E	A	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	4	1	5	3	8	6	9
1	3	9	8	6	4	7	5	2
5	6	8	9	7	2	1	3	4
6	9	2	7	3	1	4	8	5
7	5	3	6	4	8	9	2	1
8	4	1	2	9	5	6	7	3
4	1	5	3	8	6	2	9	7
3	8	7	4	2	9	5	1	6
9	2	6	5	1	7	3	4	8

FAITH

Significance of Thai Poosam

The months of Thai to Aani fall under the Uttarayan phase of our calendar. During this period, it is believed that the Devas open their eyes and bless humans. The month of Thai has always been a huge spiritual and social gateway to divinity as well as auspicious events in one's life. Our Tamil proverb, '*Thai pirandhal vazhi pirakkum*', implying impasses will be resolved and new opportunities will open, is one of the frequently stated comfort elixirs, to those suffering from terminal illness to facing impediments at work or in relationships. Temples and spiritual activities reach a crescendo on Thai Poosam and for a good reason. Poosam, the Tamil star falling on Pournami tidhi is extremely auspicious, as the guru of the Poosam star is Prajapati, the leader of the Devas, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

Thai Poosam is the day when everything you start will flourish, as Prajapati's grace is limitless. This is the primary reason for devotees across the world celebrating the festival in a grand manner. Ear piercing ceremonies, weddings, starting of family business endeavours are all scheduled on this auspicious occasion.

The ultimate guru is Lord Murugan, the child who tutored his father Siva. Swamimalai, which narrates this as the sthala puranam, is one of the preferred destinations for prayers. The largest gathering happens in Palani. Devotees undertake padayatra, months and weeks in advance of Thai Poosam, to Palani, observing austerities and reciting from Thevaram, the Tamil holy scripture. Murugan's trident is the ultimate umbrella of peace, happiness and divine grace.

YANGON

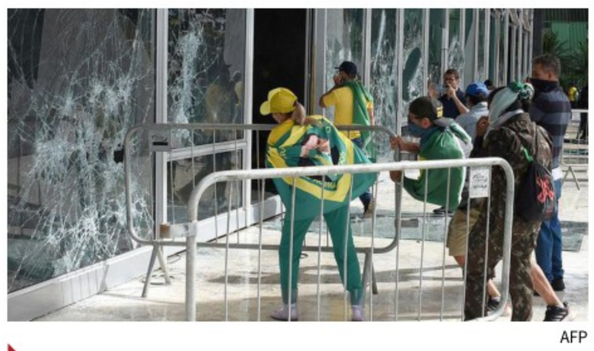
Myanmar junta imposes tough new measures on rebel bastions

REUTERS

Myanmar's junta has introduced tough new measures in resistance strongholds under which people accused of treason and "spreading false news" will be tried by a military court, state media said. The latest notice signals the junta is looking for new ways to stamp out resistance in areas where anti-coup fighters are active. AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil's Lula accuses Bolsonaro of preparing January 8 'coup'



AFP

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday alleged that his predecessor Jair Bolsonaro actively participated in planning the 'coup' on January 8. Mr. Lula's allegations came the same day that a senator accused Mr. Bolsonaro of attending a meeting on how to prevent the handover of power. AFP

LONDON

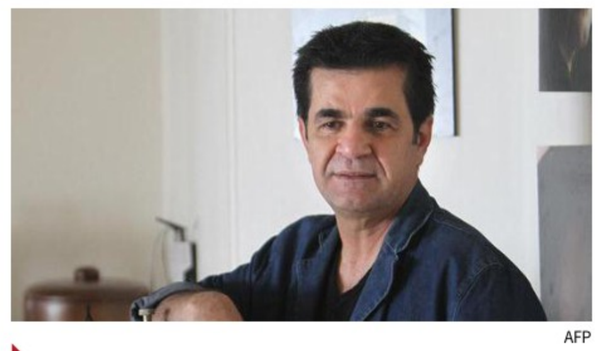
U.K. man admits treason over crossbow plot against Queen

AP

A man who was arrested on the grounds of Windsor Castle with a loaded crossbow pleaded guilty to treason on Friday for planning to attack Queen Elizabeth II. Jaswant Singh Chail, 21, was arrested at the royal residence west of London on Dec. 25, 2021, when the Queen was staying there. AP

PARIS

Iranian director Jafar Panahi released after hunger strike



AFP

Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi has been released on bail after going on a hunger strike to protest against his almost seven-month detention, supporters said on Friday. His imprisonment had become a symbol of the plight of artists speaking out against the authorities. AFP

Antony Blinken postpones China visit after 'spy balloon' is detected over U.S.

Beijing acknowledges that the balloon was from China, but says 'it is a civilian airship used for research, mainly meteorological, purposes'; It also expresses 'regret' over the incident, insisting that it respects the sovereignty of other countries, and suggests it had hoped for the visit to go ahead

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken's highly anticipated visit to China set for next week, the first by a top American diplomat since 2018, has been postponed in the wake of a Chinese "spy balloon" detected in recent days floating above the U.S.

The Chinese government on Friday expressed its "regret" over the incident, suggesting Beijing had hoped for the visit that was set for Monday, which both sides had been working on for months, to go ahead.

Covert surveillance: A suspected Chinese 'spy balloon' spotted in the sky over Billings, Montana in the United States. AFP

But reports from Washington on Friday said the visit would now likely be postponed indefinitely in the wake of the incident, which had even led to the Pentagon scrambling aircraft. The reconnaissance balloon had, according to the Pentagon, travelled from China, subsequently crossing into Alaska and Canada, before hovering over the state of Montana earlier this week.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in a Friday statement acknowledged that the balloon was from China and expressed regret. "The airship is from China. It is a civilian airship used for research, mainly meteorological, purposes. Affected by the Westerlies and with limited self-steering capability, the airship deviated far from its planned course," the statement said.

Unintended entry

"The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into U.S. airspace due to force majeure. The Chinese side will continue communicating with the U.S. side and properly handle this unexpected situation caused by force majeure."

Mr. Blinken's visit was set to be the first by a Secretary of State to China since Mike Pompeo's in 2018, reflecting the downward slide in relations, starting during the Trump administration and continuing under the Biden administration.

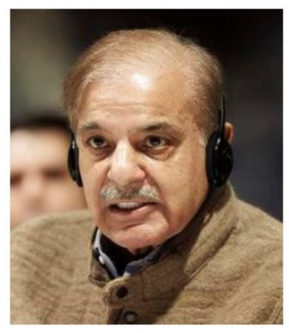
Both sides have clashed over a number of issues from Taiwan, where each has accused the other of changing the status quo, to trade, where Beijing has been angered by U.S. export controls while Washington has criticised unfair trade practices. Other issues are human rights in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, and Chinese support for the Russian war in Ukraine.

In Bali, both sides had agreed to resume engagement on issues such as climate change and to work together on maintaining global economic stability, although their positions remained far apart on thorny issues.

That process was expected to begin in earnest with the Blinken visit, which now, however, has been cast in doubt following the latest flashpoint in relations.

Pak. 'to agree' to tough IMF rules as crisis worsens

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR



Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday the government would have to agree to IMF bailout conditions that are "beyond imagination", as it battles a spiralling economic crisis.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation landed in Pakistan on Tuesday for last-ditch talks to revive vital financial aid that has stalled for months.

The government has held out against tax rises and subsidy slashing demanded by the IMF, fearful of backlash ahead of elections due in October.

Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, with the prospect of national bankruptcy looming, and stricken by a balance of payments crisis as it attempts to service high levels of external debt, amid political chaos and deteriorating security.

Data on Wednesday showed year-on-year inflation had risen to a 48-year high, leaving Pakistanis struggling to afford basic food items.

Taliban beat up tutor for opposing ban

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Ismail Mashal had caused a storm by tearing his degree certificates to shreds on live TV in Dec.

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have "beaten and detained" an academic who voiced outrage on live television against their ban on women's university education, his aide said on Friday.

Veteran journalism lecturer Ismail Mashal caused a storm by tearing his degree certificates to shreds on TV in December, protesting the edict ending women's higher education.

In recent days, domestic channels showed Mr. Mashal carting books around Kabul and offering them to passers-by.

A Taliban official confirmed the detention.

"Teacher Mashal had indulged in provocative actions against the system for some time," tweeted Abdul Haq Hammad, director at the Ministry of Information and Culture.

"The security agencies took him for investigation."

In deeply conservative and patriarchal Afghanistan it is rare to see a man protest in support of women but Mr. Mashal, who ran a co-educational institute, said he would stand up for women's rights.

EU pledges support ahead of Kyiv summit

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

The EU on Friday pledged to support Ukraine "every step of the way" in its quest for bloc membership as top officials gathered in Kyiv for a highly symbolic summit.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is hosting the meeting, is pressing the bloc for speedy membership as it battles to defeat a nearly year-long Russian invasion.

The EU granted candidate status to Ukraine last June, but the path to full membership is likely to be fraught and could take years.

EU chief Charles Michel announced his arrival in the Ukrainian capital as air raid sirens sounded, vowing that there will be "no let up in our resolve."

"We will also support you every step of the way on your journey to the EU," Mr. Michel tweeted.

New sanctions

The bloc's chief Ursula von der Leyen and the EU's most senior diplomat, Josep Borrell, are also in Kyiv for the summit.

Ms. Von der Leyen welcomed steps taken by Ukraine for membership and said the EU was looking to finalise new sanctions against Russia by February 24, the first anniversary of the invasion.

An EU ban on Russian oil products is set to come into effect on Sunday alongside a G7 price cap.

AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016482
(Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)
Office of The Superintending Engineer (MM)
Vidyut Bhawan, Panchsheel Nagar, Makarwali Road, Ajmer-305004)

Short Term "E" TENDRING INVITING TENDER NOTICE

"E"- TENDERING ARE INVITED FOR 16 KVA Three Phase Distt. Transformer **TN-1776**, 25 KVA Three Phase Distt. Transformer **TN-1777**, M. S. Nut Bolt Assorted Size **TN-1778**, Guarding Bracket for LT/11 Kv Line on 9 M 200 Kg. PCC Poles, Guarding Bracket for LT/33 Kv Line on 9 M 400 Kg. PCC Poles, Guarding Bracket for 33 Line on Lattice Tower 42' Long, Guarding Bracket for 33 Line on Lattice Tower 36' Long **TN-1779**, 11 KV Sub Station Structure Set, 11 KV LINE D/P SET **TN-1780**, 11 KV HORN GAP FUSES Set, **TN-1781**, LT Bracket 2' Long, LT Bracket 4' Long **TN-1782**, EMD and date of uploading /opening of tender and G.C.C. etc WILL be available at web site **WWW.AVVNL.COM** & **HTTP://EPROC.RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN**.
UBN:- AVV2223GLOB00614

Raj.Samwad/C/22/13992

Superintending Engineer (MM)
AVVNL, Ajmer

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
Kerala www.keralait.org

Tender No: ETPK/PH-1/161/2023

Tenders are invited from eligible agencies for the
'Consultancy Service Contract for NABL Accreditation as per ISO/IEC 17025-2017 for the Engineering Laboratory in Technopark Campus, Trivandrum'

For further details, please visit https://www.technopark.org
Date: 01-02-2023
Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Executive Officer
Technopark, Trivandrum-695 581
Ph: 0471-2700222 Fax: 0471 -2700171

Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL,Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division,Shikaripura.

Tender Notification-59/2022-23 Date: 31-01-2023 (Call-2)
Ref:1. Tender Notification-49/2022-23 Date: 18-01-2023
(E-Procurement System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.T.P.P Act- 2000 on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors in standard K/W Bid document. Contractors, has registered in PWD Department such as **KPWD Class-III & Above (SI No.08 SC Category)** The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through E- procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http:// www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).Construction of samudhaya bhavana, Improvements of canal and CC drain in Shikaripura Taluk of Shivamogga district for 08 Works of** Amount put to tender Rs. **99.73** lakhs to Rs. **15.00** lakhs and EMD Rs. **2.00** lakhs to Rs. **0.38 lakhs.1)** Date of downloading & submission of tender (through e- procurement) will be on **02-02-2023** to **10-02-2023** up to 5.30 PM **2)** Last date for tender queries will be on **09-02-2023** up to 5.00 PM **3)** Opening of technical /Financial bid will be on **13-02-2023 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid. For more details visit website from date-**02-02-2023** at **(http:// www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**.OR undersigned in all working days during office hours.

DIPR/SMG/No.48/ZEN/2022-23

Sd/-
Executive Engineer.
KNNL, DRP., Division, Shikaripura

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Miss. D. K.Thejaswini, D/o. Sri. D. K. V. Ramana Swamy, intend to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its joint owners 1. Sri. S. Radha Krishna S/o. Late. Seenappa, 2. Sri. Srinivas Y S/o. Sri. Yellappa, 3. Sri. Shivakumar V Hiremath S/o. Sri. Veeraiah Hiremath, 4. Sri. Karthik Kumar V. S/o. Sri. Venkatesh .R, Residing at No. 3/1, BG Circle, Malenallasandra, Jigani, Bangalore- 560 105.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Site No.22A, (Southern portion of plot No. 22) formed in land bearing Old Sy. No. 43/2, New Sy. No. 43/4, situated at Begihalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 30 Feet in all measuring 900 Sq. Feet and bounded on: East by : 25 Ft Road, West by: Site No.39, North by: Site No.22 (B), South by : Site No. 23.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, &
B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4 Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 03-02-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Balaji G. R. S/o. Sri. Rajendran G. intend to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Smt. Nethravathi. S, W/o. Sri. S. Y. Ramesh Residing at Flat No. 406, B-Block, Architha Aithal Aaroli Apartment, 80 feet Road, Opp. Jnanakshi School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore - 98.

If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Site No.101, Katha No. 537/225/101, formed in Old Sy. No. 57, later Sy. No.57/P3, New Sy. No.225 , situated at Singena Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in Total measuring 1600 Sq. Feet & bounded on: East by : Site No. 74, West by : 25 Ft Road, North by: Site No. 100, South by : Private Property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, &
B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
96, 1 Floor, 1 Main, 4 Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
BANGALORE, DATE : 03-02-2023

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Road Infrastructure-Traffic, Engineering cell,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No. EE/RI-TEC/TEND/19/2022-2023 **Dated: 03.02.2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification) (Call-2)
(Through e-Procurement Portal
GOK website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure-TEC Division invites tenders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Appx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)
1.	Providing Micro Surfacing of worn out surface in South Zone (Call-2).	318.90	4.8

Period of completion : 3 months.

Calendar of Events: (1)Availability of Tender Document in e-procurement portal from : 03.02.2023 onwards. (2) Last date for submission of Tenders : 09.02.2023 up to 16.00hrs. (3) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 10.02.2023 at 16.30 hrs. (4) Date of opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated to Tenderers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
(RI-TEC)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- Different Head : 2022-23: 6036 Dt : 03-02-2023

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 20 work of total amount of Rs. **219.20** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs. **3.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **51.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1 2 & 3 through e-procurement. - http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/
(a) Last Date for Clarification upto : **09-02-2023**, (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **13-02-2023** (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **14-02-2023** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **15-02-2023**
Work Indent No:- 156391 156390 154573 156392 156393 164574 164651 164653-SC 162851-Call-2-ST 162876-Call-2-ST 163030 -Call-2-SC 163029-Call-2-ST 163002-Call-2-ST 162990-Call-2-ST 162970-Call-2-ST 162968-Call-2 -SC 163034-Call-2-SC 163356 162995-SC 163360.

The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag (08372-238782) during office hours.

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/619/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

KSSIDC **KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: A.O. Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Telephone: 080-2340 7011 to 25, Fax:91-080-2320 8970
Website: www.kssidc.co.in e-mail: kssidcho@karnataka.gov.in

No.ep-72:ENGG:SE:Peenya:1st Stg:Upg:2022-23 Dated: 02-02-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal only)

1. The Superintending Engineer, on behalf of Managing Director, KSSIDC through e-procurement system (e-procurement portal) invites Item Rate Tenders from the Class I Contractors registered with Karnataka PWD, CPWD, MES, NHAI, Railways and National Highways for the Work mentioned in a detailed notification No.ep-72:ENG:SE:Peenya:1stStg:Upg:2022-23 dated: 02-02-2023.
2. Tenders shall be submitted along with EMD by logging in to e-procurement website http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in (Under Commerce and Industries Department) through e-procurement portal. The document may be downloaded from 04-02-2023 at 04.00 PM.

Calendar of Events :

- Date of Pre tender meeting at the office Superintendent Engineer on 08-02-2023 at 16.00 hours
- Last Date for online Submission of Tender documents is 24-02-2023 at 16.00 hours
- Date of Opening of Technical Electronic document first is on 27-02-2023 at 16.30 hours
- Date of Opening of "Financial Electronic Document Second" will be after Approval of "Technical Electronic Document First" through e-procurement.

Further information may be obtained from the office of the undersigned officer or through e-procurement website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/ e-procurement cell helpdesk (Tel Ph No: 080-25501227 / 25501216)

DIPR/CP/4468/AKAR/22-23

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer

INBRIEF

Govt. allows Vodafone Idea to convert its AGR dues to equity

The Centre has allowed Vodafone Idea to convert more than ₹16,133 crore in debt it owes the exchequer in spectrum and aggregate gross revenue (AGR) dues to equity, the telecom operator said in a filing with stock exchanges on Friday. The telco was on the verge of insolvency in 2021, but the government had allowed the spectrum and AGR dues it owed to be deferred.

Bank of Baroda Q3 net profit jumps 75% to ₹4,306 crore

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Friday reported a 74.76% jump in consolidated net profit to ₹4,305.66 crore during the quarter ended December 2022, aided by improving asset quality and higher core income. On a standalone basis, the lender's net profit jumped 75.4% to ₹3,853 crore. Without naming the Adani Group, MD Sanjiv Chadha said BoB's overall exposure to the ports-to-media conglomerate's entities is one-fourth of the single group exposures allowed under the Large Exposures Framework. PTI

Tourism to contribute $512 bn to India's GDP by 2028: TAAI

Post COVID-19, the tour and travel segment of India is expected to witness rapid growth in terms of inbound and outbound traffic, according to industry executives. "Tourism will contribute $512 billion to India's GDP by 2028, and create 53 million jobs by 2029," Jyoti Mayal, president, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) said at an event here. "By that time India would earn foreign exchange of $56 billion from tourist arrivals and 30.5 million foreign arrivals are expected by 2030," she added.

SBI's exposure to Adani as on Dec. 31 is ₹27,000 cr., see no concern: Khara

Khara says group's borrowings at 0.88% of bank's total loans, does not see conglomerate facing debt servicing challenges; India's largest lender reports Q3 net profit surges 68% to ₹14,205 crore as net interest income rises 24%, bad loans decline

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India's total exposure to the Adani Group as on December 31, 2022, was about ₹27,000 crore, chairman Dinesh Khara said on Friday, adding SBI saw no concern 'as of now' over the group's level of debt..

"This is 0.88% of our total [₹31 lakh crore loan] book," Mr. Khara told reporters in a post-earnings virtual briefing, adding "we do not envisage them [Adani] facing any challenges to servicing their debt obligations".

He also said that SBI had not given any loans to the Adanis against group company shares nor received any request from the conglomerate to refinance any of its loans.

The group, Mr. Khara stressed, had an 'excellent track record of repayment' and had tangible assets with adequate cash flows.

'Mindful of situation'

Asked about the bank's approach to lend further to new projects of the group he said: "For project [loan] sanction, they have to bring their equity. That will be insisted upon, else it will not be sanctioned. Going forward, each of the proposals will be evaluated on merit and everybody will be mindful about the situation."

Earlier, SBI reported third-quarter net profit surged 68.4% year-on-year to ₹14,205 crore, after net interest income climbed 24% to ₹38,069 crore.

Asset quality also improved, with loan loss provisions declining 48.8% to ₹1,586 crore. Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) slid 18.1% to ₹98,347 crore while net NPAs fell 32%.

"From up to 2016, this is the first time that GNPA is less than ₹1,00,000 crore," Mr. Khara said.

Adani shadow

Chairman Khara sought to reassure investors and customers as SBI's announcement of strong earnings performance was overshadowed by concerns about loans to Adani Group

- SBI says it has not given any advances to Adanis against group company shares nor received any request to refinance loans
- Will insist on Adanis bringing equity for new project loans, bank officials will be mindful of the situation: Khara
- SBI's gross NPAs shrank 18.1% in Q3 to ₹98,347 crore

U.S. hiring sees surge, joblessness edges down

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. job gains surged unexpectedly last month to 5,17,000 as unemployment slipped to its lowest rate in more than five decades, official data showed, indicating strength in the labour market despite efforts to ease economic activity.

The Federal Reserve has tempered its campaign to rein in prices on signs that the U.S. economy is cooling, but the latest figures could steer it towards more interest rate hikes than expected.

Privatisation of insurer, PSBs off the table for now: Pandey

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Focus of strategic disinvestment process will be to execute approved transactions

The privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance firm announced in the Union Budget two years ago, is off the table for now, the top Finance Ministry official in charge of the government's disinvestment drive said on Friday.

The focus of the strategic disinvestment process in the coming year will be to execute the approved transactions that are already in the pipeline rather than initiate work on more such companies, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey told *The Hindu*.

"It is not on the table for now and it cannot be on the table as it requires a legislation first. So there is no plan as of now – the Banking Regulation amendment that is being introduced in the Finance Bill this year has no plan to facilitate privatisation," he said on the prospects of initiating the sale of public sector banks and a general insurer in the coming year.

"The ₹51,000 crore disinvestment target for 2023-24 is guided by the hope of concluding transactions that work is already underway on, such as IDBI Bank, NMDC Steel, Concor, Shipping Corporation of India, BEML, *et al*," he said.

The Centre had set a ₹65,000 crore target for this year's disinvestment, but had revised it to ₹50,000 crore. Disinvestment targets, which are based on market developments and other challenges, are estimates at best, he pointed out.

Jan. services PMI eases a tad, weighs on new jobs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian services sector growth rate moderated in January as output and sales rose at softer rates, while subdued levels of confidence among service providers towards future outlook appeared to have stymied job creation, a monthly survey showed on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index declined from 58.5 in December to 57.2 in January.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,842	1.52
US Dollar	81.85	0.42
Gold	57,929	-1.27
Brent oil	83.86	1.69

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1586.80	21.55
Adani Ports	498.85	36.40
Apollo Hosp	4251.60	20.10
Asian Paints	2760.40	54.75
Axis Bank	882.60	14.15
Bajaj Auto	3852.55	61.85
Bajaj Finserv	1337.45	65.55
Bajaj Finance	6014.25	296.60
Bharti Airtel	792.90	15.15
BPCL	326.70	-5.50
Britannia Ind	4628.85	55.80
Cipla	1022.30	-3.00
Coal India	218.90	1.25
Divis Lab	2884.35	-382.65
Dr Reddys Lab	4358.35	-11.75
Eicher Motors	3316.70	99.40
Grasim Ind	1616.35	17.60
HCL Tech	1146.15	-3.45
HDFC	2694.65	81.35
HDFC Bank	1658.80	55.45
HDFC Life	488.90	-3.80
Hero MotoCorp	2654.25	-6.70
Hindalco	459.65	-5.75
Hind Unilever	2648.75	13.90
ICICI Bank	863.80	5.90
IndusInd Bank	1103.55	27.65
Infosys	1599.40	15.65
ITC	380.65	2.05
JSW Steel	731.85	4.45
Kotak Bank	1780.30	18.55
L&T	2166.55	21.65
M&M	1388.00	35.60
Maruti Suzuki	8942.30	72.15
NestleIndia	19004.30	49.70
NTPC	165.55	-1.35
ONGC	144.30	0.85
PowerGrid Corp	214.85	2.15
Reliance Ind	2329.00	2.05
SBI Life	1138.05	30.55
State Bank	544.20	16.10
Sun Pharma	1028.15	20.55
TataConsumerProduct	726.60	-10.55
Tata Motors	445.45	0.65
Tata Steel	120.35	0.40
TCS	3482.30	21.90
Tech Mahindra	1011.30	-5.35
Titan	2463.10	155.00
UltraTech Cement	7189.20	21.55
UPL	715.70	19.30
Wipro	407.90	-1.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.63	81.95
Euro	89.21	89.57
British Pound	100.05	100.45
Japanese Yen (100)	63.53	63.78
Chinese Yuan	12.11	12.16
Swiss Franc	89.38	89.74
Singapore Dollar	62.27	62.53
Canadian Dollar	61.15	61.39
Malaysian Ringitt	19.19	19.26
Australian Dollar	57.61	57.83

Source:Indian Bank

Very bullish on India, says Apple CEO Tim Cook

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Apple CEO Tim Cook said he was very bullish on India and that was the reason why Apple was investing in retail and online stores in the country and putting out a significant amount of energy here.

Speaking during the first quarter earnings call, he said, "We actually did fairly well through COVID in India and I'm even more bullish now, hopefully on the other side of it."

"India is a hugely exciting market for us and a major focus. We brought the online store there in 2020. We will soon bring Apple Retail there," he added.

Only ₹4 lakh crore of country's savings are in tax-saving schemes: Revenue Secretary

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The new personal income tax regime that hinges on taxpayers not availing of any exemptions will not affect the country's savings rate as household savings based on such tax exemptions are "actually a very small proportion of total savings", Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra asserted on Friday.

Acknowledging that many had raised concerns about the impact on savings due to the Budget's push for the new exemption-less tax regime, Mr. Malhotra said that just ₹4 lakh crore of the country's total household savings of about ₹25 lakh crore are parked through these tax-saving instruments.

While India's savings rate is about 27% to 30% of GDP, the Revenue Secretary said people won't stop investing even if they switch to the new tax regime, and the market will also come up with new alternatives to attract financial savings from those who move away from the tax exemptions-driven regime.

'Savings to improve'

"The new small savings scheme announced in the Budget for women and the expansion of scope (investment limits) in two other small savings schemes (the senior citizens and monthly income schemes) will help the country in improving our savings rate," he said.

Sanjay Malhotra

"On the other hand, the market will recalibrate and find the right levels to make it more attractive for people to save so that the country has enough money to invest... And people are now investing even otherwise.

"I did a survey asking people about this and they said they would continue to save and not stop just because the tax break is withdrawn," Mr. Malhotra said.

He was responding to a query from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) director-general Chandrajit Banerjee on whether the new tax regime would encourage savings.

'Estimates realistic'

Stressing that the revenue estimates in Budget 2023-24 are realistic and not conservative, Mr. Malhotra signalled that the high buoyancy of in GST and direct tax collections that have risen about 24% this year, cannot be expected every year.

"The high growth rates we are seeing this year, is partly because of two reasons – apart from simplification and tax avoidance measures we have taken," he said.

'Base effect'

"There is a base effect too as the first quarter of last year was a COVID-hit period. Second, there was a slight increase in GST rates in July," Mr. Malhotra pointed out.

Similarly, direct taxes also showed a sharper rise because income tax return filing dates were advanced to normal dates as opposed to postponed dates in the last couple of years, he explained.

IndiGo turned profit in Q3 on high demand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Strong passenger demand during the year-end travel season saw budget carrier IndiGo report its highest-ever quarterly revenue, leading to its first profitable quarter of the fiscal during the three months ended December 2022 with a net profit of ₹1,422 crore.

In a stock exchange filing, IndiGo said total income rose 62.6% to ₹15,410 crore.

Passenger ticket revenues surged 63% to ₹13,162 crore and ancillary revenues grew 24.6% to ₹1,422 crore.

Revenue from operations rose 60.7% to ₹14,933 crore as passenger numbers expanded by 25.8% to 2.23 crore. The airline had reported a loss of ₹381 crore in the quarter ended September 2022 and a loss of ₹1,064 crore in the June quarter.

The airline's last profitable quarter was the third quarter of financial year 2021-2022 when it clocked ₹129 crore in profit.

The India Cements Q3 net profit soars to ₹90.73 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The India Cements Ltd.'s (ICL) standalone net profit for the quarter ended December soared to ₹90.73 crore, aided by a profit of ₹294 crore from sale of investments in Madhya Pradesh to set up a new plant.

The cement major had reported a net profit of ₹3 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations rose to ₹1,219 crore from ₹1,108 crore. The overall volume of clinker and cement stood at 21.82 lakh tones (21.08 lakh tonnes).

Briefing reporters, vice-chairman and managing director N. Srinivasan said that the third-quarter performance was severely impacted by the unprecedented rise in fuel and power costs, which could not be compensated in the market place due to huge supply overhang.

N. Srinivasan

Besides, the company also lost some volumes due to monsoon and high landed cost of products in the commercially unviable markets of east and north east, Mr. Srinivasan said.

"While all India players had a reasonable increase in selling prices elsewhere in the regions to partially offset the cost increase, the industry in the south had to bear the impact of cost push without much increase in the selling price of cement," he said.

He said that the company had decided to refurbish all its cement plants except those in Sankari and Banswara.

The cost of refurbishments would be about ₹1,500-1,600 crore, which would be raised internally by monetising land. "ICL has about 26,000 acres. It has no plans to raise debt for the scheme," he added.

TotalEnergies says it's not re-evaluating Adani holdings

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

French energy giant TotalEnergies, which had in past years taken stakes in two Adani group listed firms, said on Friday it had not performed any re-evaluation of its holdings because of volatility in stock prices following allegations of fraud.

The firm said its investment in Adani group entities were undertaken in full compliance with the Indian laws and its own internal governance processes. The company has a 37.4% stake in Adani Total Gas Ltd. and a 20% holding in Adani Green Energy Ltd.

Assessing financial flexibility of Adani Group: Moody's

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Developments likely to hit group's ability to raise capital to fund capex, refinance debt over 1-2 years

Moody's Investors Service on Friday said it is assessing overall financial flexibility, including the liquidity position, of Adani Group firms given a significant and rapid decline in stock value following the release of the Hindenburg Research report.

"These adverse developments are likely to reduce the group's ability to raise capital to fund committed capex or refinance maturing debt over the next 1-2 years," Moody's said.

Moody's also warned that the rout in Adani Group shares could hurt the conglomerate's ability to raise capital, while its peer Fitch saw no immediate impact on its ratings.

Adani Group's listed firms have lost more than $100 billion in value in just over a week after short-seller Hindenburg Research's report flagged concerns about the conglomerate's debt levels and alleged stock manipulation, accounting fraud and the use of tax havens. Adani Group has denied any wrongdoing and has threatened to sue Hindenburg.

Separately, Fitch Ratings said it saw no immediate impact on rated Adani entities' credit profiles.

"There is no immediate impact on the ratings of the Fitch-rated Adani entities and their securities following a short-seller report alleging malpractices at India's Adani Group... and expects no material changes to its forecast cash flow."

There are also no near-term significant offshore bond maturities – earliest in June 2024 for Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone; December 2024 for Adani Green Energy Restricted Group 1; and 2026 or beyond for all other entities – reducing refinancing risks and near-term liquidity risks.

Dow Jones to drop Adani Enterprises from indices

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

S&P Dow Jones has said it will remove Adani Group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises from the sustainability indices with effect from February 7 following a media and stakeholder analysis triggered by allegations of accounting fraud against the company.

The move comes amid the stock exchanges BSE and NSE putting three Adani Group companies – Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone and Ambuja Cements – under their short-term additional surveillance measure (ASM).

Simulation the mantra as Aussies begin training

It is important for us to have a really strong mindset and go to every game and situation ready and fresh, says visiting team's wicketkeeper-batter Carey; many left-arm spinners bowl in the nets

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Australian Test players got to work at a training camp in Alur Cricket Ground here on Friday, doing their best to replicate the spin-friendly conditions expected in the first Test to be held at Nagpur.

The Australian batters – Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head and others – faced a spinner in the nets whose run-up and action resembled R. Ashwin, one of India's spin threats in the Tests. The bowler, Mahesh Pithiya, has played four First Class matches for Baroda.

"There are a lot of net bowlers here. They are all different, and they have been fantastic so far," Australia wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey said in a cricket.com.au video.

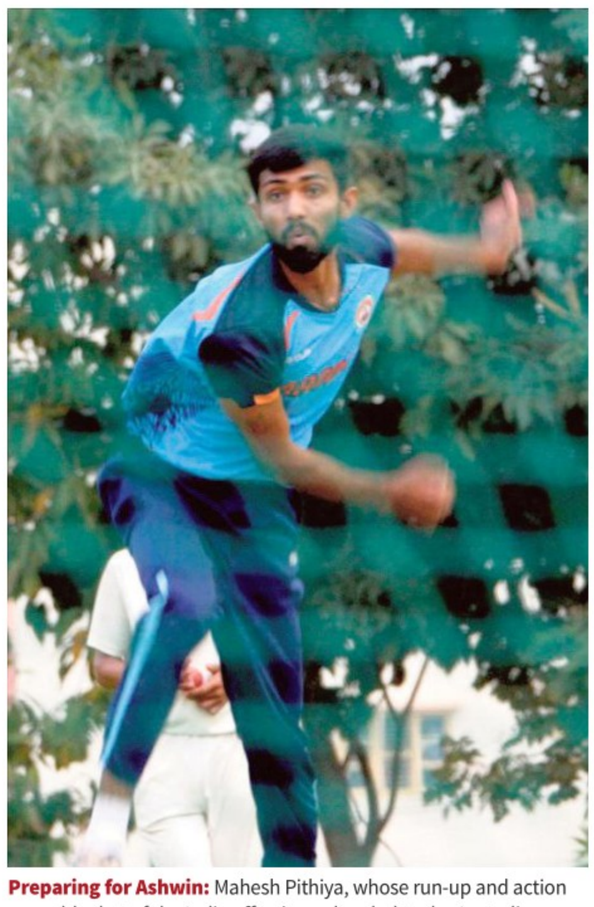
"I did not get to face the carrom ball. Hopefully Gaz [Nathan Lyon] can bowl a few of them to me," Carey added.

The pitches used at Alur took more turn as the day wore on, *cricket.com.au* reported.

Many left-arm orthodox spinners were also brought in to bowl in the nets, it reported. The Indian Test squad has two world-class left-arm orthodox tweakers in Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

"In Australia, pitches are less spinny. It is important for us to have a really strong mindset, and go to every game and situation ready and fresh," Carey said.

Carey added that he was excited to see experienced off-spinner Nathan Lyon bowl in India. "He [Lyon] has done so well here in the past. Same with (left-arm spinner) Ashton Agar – he bowls a bit quicker and into the wicket. Our other spinners – Travis [Head] is a real threat with the ball, and same with Marnus," Carey said.



Preparing for Ashwin: Mahesh Pithiya, whose run-up and action resemble that of the India off-spinner, bowled to the Australian batters at a camp in Bengaluru. CRICKET.COM.AU

WTC final spot at stake as India and Australia brace up for the big battle

Ayan Acharya

After a solid diet of white-ball cricket, it's time to feast on the longest form of the game.

The battle for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy gets underway in Nagpur on February 9, with a spot in the World Test Championship final at stake for both teams.

The Aussies regard success in a series against India as essential in establishing themselves as an all-conquering Test unit. Winning in India will once again be the "final frontier" as 19 years and four Test tours have passed since Australia left the shores triumphant.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy contests aren't a warm-up for the Ashes anymore, reflecting the new order in the game. Like the Australia-England series, India and Australia will figure only in five-Test jousts hereafter and the upcoming series will be the final four-Test skirmish.

The series promises to establish Pat Cummins' legacy as Test captain. Though he has an amazing pace-bowling depth and a prolific top-order at his disposal, a quick look at the squad list shows that the visitors can ill-afford injury casualties in the dug-out.

Let's play: The Border-Gavaskar Trophy contests hold a special place in the Test arena. FILE PHOTO

Mitchell Starc is already unavailable for the first Test as he recovers from a middle-finger injury while all-rounder Cameron Green is racing against time to be fit after fracturing his right index finger.

The Australian batters will be wary of Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel. They were razed to the ground by left-arm finger spinner Prabath Jayasuriya during their last Test outing in Sri Lanka in July 2022.

That said, Australia itself will have fond memories of left-armer Steve O'Keefe tormenting India in Tests in 2017, grabbing 19 wickets.

This time, Australia will be keen to unleash Ashton Agar from the get-go. Leggie Mitchell Swepson will add variety.

India, too, has its share of injury setbacks. Jasprit Bumrah will miss the first two Tests and Shreyas Iyer has been ruled out of the first game as he continues rehab for a back injury.

The absence of Rishabh Pant, recovering from a horrific car accident, could be a telling blow.

Australia and India will play four Tests in just over a month's time at Nagpur, Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad as Cummins and his men search for a second series win in India in 50 years. India has hosted Australia in 14 Test series and enjoys an 8-4 lead, with two series drawn.

Performing a hat-trick

India has won the last three Test series: at home in 2016-17, and away in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

The immediate instalment promises a lot. It's time to strap up and get ready for the ride.

Rune rolls past Bhambri in opening match

Rune. FILE PHOTO

Sports Bureau

World No. 9 Holger Rune put Denmark 1-0 ahead with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Yuki Bhambri in the Davis Cup World Group play-off tennis tie at the Royal Stage, Hillerod, on Friday.

One of the fastest rising stars of world tennis, the 19-year-old entertained the packed gathering with high-quality tennis, serving and volleying with aplomb, and firing winners from the back court with assurance.

The 30-year-old Yuki, who had played a big part in India's win over Denmark on the grass courts of the Delhi Gymkhana last year, battled with Rune for about an hour before going down.

The indoor hard court suited the home player and Rune thanked the fans for the "fantastic atmosphere". He did not face a single breakpoint in the match and was at his fluent best.

It was a tactical move by India captain Rohit Rajpal to put Sumit Nagal against August Holmgren, the No. 2 player of Denmark. If Nagal prevails in Friday's second match, the teams will be tied 1-1.

We will look to take positives from tri-series into World Cup: Deepti

Deepti (Ind)

TOP PERFORMERS IN T20I TRI-SERIES

BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Hayley (WI)	4	125	34*	100.80	0
Harmanpreet (Ind)	3	109	56*	136.25	1
Tryon (SA)	3	86	57*	153.57	1
Smriti (Ind)	5	86	74*	111.68	1
BOWLING	**Inns**	**Wkts.**	**BBI**	**Econ.**	**4W**
Deepti (Ind)	4	9	3/11	5.56	0
Mlaba (SA)	5	6	2/15	3.25	0
Klaas (SA)	3	5	4/21	5.50	1
Rajeshwari (Ind)	4	4	1/9	4.06	0

Hayley (WI)

Press Trust of India
EAST LONDON

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma is pleased with their overall effort and said they will look to take positives from the tri-series into the ICC Women's T20 World Cup beginning on February 10.

The Indian women's team, which had secured a maiden final finish in the 2020 ICC T20 World Cup, suffered a five-wicket loss to hosts South Africa in the Tri-series final on Thursday. "There are lots of positives from the series, we did well as a bowling and batting unit. We have to just carry on these things in the World Cup as well," Deepti said in the post-match press-conference.

"Whether we play England or any other team, we have to just focus on the things we did well here and continue doing that over there as well.

"Obviously South Africa has home conditions. But as a team, we have to carry forward what we have done right in the tri-series and not think about the opposition but our own team, what we can do better."

Nominees for National Team of the Year award

ACES 2023

Sports Bureau

The *Sportstar Aces* Awards seek to honour incredible performances by Indians across sporting disciplines.

Among the six Popular Choice honours open to public voting in the fifth chapter is the coveted National Team of the Year Award.

The Indian sports outfits enjoyed tremendous success in 2022.

Among the lot, the six nominated ones are: India's Thomas Cup-winning badminton team, the women's hockey team, the women's fours lawn bowls team, the Chess Olympiad contingent and the men's table tennis team.

What the nominees did in 2022:

India's Thomas Cup-winning badminton team: Beat Indonesia 3-0 in the final to win its maiden Thomas Cup title. Sixth different nation to lift the coveted crown.

Women's hockey team: Won the FIH Nations Cup and was promoted to the FIH Pro League for 2023-24. Finished third on debut at the FIH Hockey Pro League. Took the third spot in the Asia Cup. Bagged a bronze at the Commonwealth Games.

Women's Fours lawn bowls team: The Indians won their first-ever gold in Lawn Bowls, beating South Africa 17-10 in the final of the Women's Fours event of the Commonwealth Games.

Indian chess contingent at Olympiad: The hosts fielded three teams in the Open and Women's sections. India B in the Open category and India 1 in the women's division claimed bronze medals. Out of the 36 medals at stake, the Indians clinched nine: D. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin won gold on the men's boards 1 and 2. Arjun Erigaisi won silver on board 3. Bronze went to R. Praggnanandhaa (men's board 3), R. Vaishali (women's board 3), Tania Sachdev (women's board 3) and Divya Deshmukh (women's reserve board).

Men's table tennis team: Retained the Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Haynes named head coach and Nooshin bowling coach of Giants

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Former Australia opener Rachael Haynes has been appointed head coach of the Gautam Adani-owned Women's Premier League (WPL) team Gujarat Giants while Nooshin Al Khadeer, who guided the India under-19 team to a World Cup triumph, will be the bowling coach.

The Adani Sportsline-owned Gujarat Giants, bought for a whopping ₹1289 crore, has already roped in former India captain Mithali Raj as its mentor and advisor.

Former senior women's team coach Tushar Arothe will be the batting coach and Gavan Twining will look after the fielding department.

Nooshin. ICC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Rachael Haynes. GETTY IMAGES

The 36-year-old Haynes, who played at the highest level for more than a decade, was an integral part of the very successful National set-up. She played in 84 T20Is and played a crucial role in Australia's title-winning campaigns at the 2018 and 2020 T20I World Cups. Haynes, who was part of the team that won the 2022 50-over World Cup in New Zealand, also turned out for Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), often leading the run scoring charts for her side.

"The Women's Premier League is such an exciting addition to the cricket landscape. The opportunity to be involved in the inaugural season with Gujarat Giants and work with the brilliant Mithali Raj is something I'm really looking forward to," said Haynes.

"We have formed a wonderful coaching team, with Nooshin Al Khadeer, Tushar Arothe and Gavan Twining, who will be bringing on board their rich experience which will help the team play an exciting brand of cricket."

Dipa stays suspended till July 10

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The International Testing Agency (ITA) on Friday confirmed that 29-year-old gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who finished a historic fourth in vault at the 2016 Rio Olympics, had been suspended for 21 months until July 10 this year for a doping violation.

According to a statement from the ITA, an independent organisation which implements anti-doping programmes across the globe, Dipa had tested positive "for higenamine (Beta-2 Agonists, as per the World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited list)." The sample was collected on behalf of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) in an out-of-competition test on Oct. 11, 2021.

"The athlete's results have been disqualified from Oct. 11, 2021 onwards," the statement said.

INBRIEF

2007 T20 World Cup winner Joginder hangs up his boots

Former India medium-pacer Joginder Sharma, who bowled the iconic match-winning final over in the 2007 World T20 summit clash against Pakistan, on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 39-year-old represented India in four ODIs and as many T20Is between 2004 and 2007, picking up five wickets. He played domestic cricket for Haryana. "My journey from 2002-2017 has been the most wonderful years of my life for it was an honour representing India at the highest level of sport," he said in a message posted on twitter.

Kyrgios assault charge dismissed despite guilty plea

A common assault charge against Nick Kyrgios was dismissed in a Canberra court on Friday, despite the tennis player earlier pleading guilty. The charge related to a 2021 incident involving his former girlfriend Chiara Passari.

Karnataka in semifinals of senior women's One Day Trophy

Karnataka entered the semifinals of the Senior Women's One Day Trophy with a four-wicket win over Delhi in Ranchi. Set a 200-run target, Karnataka rode on half-centuries from D. Vrinda (62) and Shishira A. Gowda (51), and an unbeaten 45 from Veda Krishnamurthy to canter home in less than 40 overs.

The scores: Delhi 199 in 49.4 overs (Priya Punia 67, Pratika 30, Shreyanka Patil 3/30) lost to Karnataka 203/6 in 38.4 overs (D. Vrinda 62, Shishira A. Gowda 51, Veda Krishnamurthy 45 n.o., Parunika Sisodia 3/55).

ISL summit clash to be held on March 18

The final of the Indian Super League (ISL) will be held on March 18, the organisers announced on Friday. The two play-off matches between the fourth and fifth-place teams and the third and sixth-place sides will be played on March 3 and 4 respectively. The four home-and-away semifinal matches will be played on March 7, 9, 12 and 13.

Asensio and Vinicius get Real easy win over Valencia

Real Madrid reduced Barcelona's La Liga lead to five points with a 2-0 win over Valencia on Thursday.

The result: Real Madrid 2 (Asensio 52, Vinicius 54) bt Valencia 0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
KIYG 2023: Star Sports 3, DD Sports, Hotstar & FanCode, 10 a.m. onwards
BWF Thailand Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45 & 11 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
PVL 2023: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony LIV, 8 p.m. & Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11 p.m.

Karnataka gallops into semifinal with huge win

Vysakh and Shreyas scalp three wickets apiece to skittle out Uttarakhand for 209 and complete an innings victory in four days; hosts await the winner of Saurashtra-Punjab game

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Karnataka stormed into the Ranji Trophy semifinals with a thumping innings and 281-run victory over Uttarakhand at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

Resuming day four on 106 for three, the visitors needed 384 more runs to make Karnataka bat again. But they folded for the addition of just 103 runs, lasting a little over two-and-a-half hours. Karnataka will meet either Saurashtra or Punjab, at home, in the last-four clash starting on February 8.

On a day when the sun played hide and seek, V. Vyshak ripped through the Uttarakhand middle-order to set up the win. The pacer, who had largely played second fiddle to debutant M. Venkatesh in the first innings, bowled an excellent spell (10-1-32-3) to send the away side hurtling towards defeat.

On a high: Vyshak ripped through the Uttarakhand middle-order. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Breakthrough

After Venkatesh broke through first, having overnight batter Dikshanshu Negi caught behind by B.R. Sharath, Vyshak forced Swapnil Singh (51, 100b, 7x4, 1x6) to edge to Devdutt Padikkal at widish first-slip.

Akhil Rawat was out in similar fashion, edging Vyshak to Padikkal – this time at third slip – as the latter competed a fine low catch. Aditya Tare resisted for a while (28, 57b, 3x4) but succumbed to a rising delivery from Vyshak that he tried to pull but could only send it as far as the mid-on fielder.

Shreyas Gopal, who didn't bowl a single ball in the first essay but showed his worth as a First Class batter, ran through the tail, finishing with a three-wicket haul (12.4-1-26-3). Abhay Negi and Nikhil Kohli were trapped leg-before with deliveries that straightened. Deepak Dhapola, the last man out, was bowled through the gate off a wrong'un.

Impressive bowling

"I think the way we are bowling is a massive plus for us," said captain Mayank Agarwal. "[If] we are getting teams out for scores like 116 on first-day wickets at KSCA means we are executing our plans really well.

"Credit to the whole bowling unit for coming up trumps almost every innings."

"For batters, something we have spoken about is, when the bowlers bowl so well and give us a massive advantage like they are doing, we must seal the game in the first innings. So very happy that all the batters are getting runs. For us to have posted 600... this is the second time we have done that this season and that augurs really well," added Mayank.

The scores: Uttarakhand — 1st innings: 116.
Karnataka — 1st innings: 606.
Uttarakhand — 2nd innings: Avneesh Sudha lbw b Kaverappa 4, Jiwanjot Singh b Kaverappa 24, Kunal Chandela c sub (S. Sharath) b Venkatesh 15, Dikshanshu Negi c B.R. Sharath b Venkatesh 29, Swapnil Singh c Padikkal b Vyshak 51, Aditya Tare c Venkatesh b Vyshak 28, Akhil Rawat c Padikkal b Vyshak 10, Abhay Negi lbw b Shreyas 15, Mayank Mishra (not out) 11, Nikhil Kohli lbw b Shreyas 0, Deepak Dhapola b Shreyas 0; Extras (b-8, lb-13, nb-1): 22; Total (in 73.4 overs): 209.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-43, 3-56, 4-120, 5-144, 6-165, 7-194, 8-194, 9-195.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 15-7-30-2, Vyshak 20-4-55-3, Gowtham 12-3-33-0, Venkatesh 14-2-44-2, Shreyas 12.4-1-26-3.

daCunha/AB/861

RANJI SCORES (QUARTERFINALS, DAY FOUR)

At Bengaluru: Uttarakhand 116 & 209 in 73.4 overs (Swapnil Singh 51) lost to Karnataka 606.
At Kolkata: Jharkhand 173 & 221 in 63.5 overs (Supriyo Chakraborty 41 n.o.) lost to Bengal 328 & 69/1 in 12.4 overs.
At Rajkot: Saurashtra 303 & 379 in 120.1 overs (Arpit Vasavada 77, Chirag Jani 77, Prerak Mankad 88, Parth Bhut 51, Vinay Choudhary 7/179) vs. Punjab 431 & 52/2 in 23 overs.
At Indore: Andhra 379 & 93 lost to Madhya Pradesh 228 & 245/5 in 77 overs (Yash Dubey 58, Shubham Sharma 40, Rajat Patidar 55).

SNAPSHOTS

Cleiton's strike helps East Bengal stun Kerala Blasters

KOLKATA: East Bengal put up a fine performance and rode on Cleiton Silva's 77th minute effort to beat Kerala Blasters FC in an ISL-9 fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Friday. The result is a setback to Kerala Blasters, which was hoping to consolidate its position in the top half of the standings. East Bengal has 15 points from 16 points to remain at the ninth place, while Kerala Blasters stays in the third place with 28 points from 16 matches.

Sai Praneeth exits in the quarterfinals

BANGKOK: Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth's impressive run came to an end after he went down fighting to China's World No. Li Shi Feng in the men's singles quarterfinals of the Thailand Open Super 300 badminton in on Friday.

Praneeth blew a lead of 15-10 in the opening game to lose 17-21, 23-21, 18-21 to bring down curtains on India's campaign.

India crushes Bhutan

DHAKA: Three players performed hat-tricks after coming in as substitutes as India mauled Bhutan 12-0 in its opening match of the SAFF under-20 women's Championship in Dhaka on Friday.

Neha (45+2, 55 & 90), Anita Kumari (50, 69 & 78) and Lynda Kom (61, 63 & 75) netted three goals each. The other scorers were Apurna Narzary (29 & 36) and Nitu Linda (43).

Silvarius takes the honours in Stayers Trial Stakes

BENGALURU: Arjun Mangalorkar-trained Silvarius (S. John up) won the Stayers Trial Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Friday (Feb 3). The winner is owned by Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta and Mr. Shomenath Roy Chowdhury. Jockey S. John won three races on the day.

1. INDRAVATI PLATE: EMMA (Likith Appu) 1, Activated (L.A. Rozario) 2, War Trail (Sai Kiran) 3 and Altamonte (Vivek) 4. 8-1/4, Nose and 2. 1m, 27.79s. ₹19 (w), 11, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 55, FP: 61, Q: 31, Trinella: 165, Exacta: 373. Favourite: Emma. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

2. ELLORA CAVES PLATE (DIV. II): SEE MY HEELS (Suraj) 1, Akasi (Vivek) 2, Altair (Tousif) 3 and Striking Point (S. Saqlain) 4. 5-3/4, Nk and 2-3/4. 1m, 27.11s. ₹20 (w), 11, 17 and 41 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 117, FP: 120, Q: 69, Trinella: 3,851, Exacta: 10,752. Favourite: See My Heels. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. II): IMPIANA (L.A. Rozario) 1, Klockner (Srinath) 2, Konabos (S. John) 3 and Breeze Bluster (Salman K) 4. 8, 1-3/4 and Shd. 1m, 26.67s. ₹19 (w), 10, 18 and 13 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 50, FP: 110, Q: 70, Trinella: 194, Exacta: 4,215. Favourite: Impiana. Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. COBWEB PLATE: ROMAN SPIRIT (Srinath) 1, Fast Pace (Ajeet K) 2, Rainbow Dreamer (Akshay K) 3 and Greenwich (S. Saqlain) 4. Not run: Spacex. 1-1/4, 3-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 08.04s. ₹55 (w), 12, 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 27, FP: 155, Q: 48, Trinella: 345, Exacta: 502. Favourite: Fast Pace. Owner: Mr. M.A.M Ramswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: S. Dominic.

5. PARFAIT AMOUR TROPHY: SANTORINO (S. John) 1, Triumphant (Suraj) 2, Ripple N Storm (Akshay K) 3 and King Of War (S. Saqlain) 4. 3-1/2, 6-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 38.30s. ₹16 (w), 10, 19 and 17 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 42, FP: 96, Q: 41, Trinella: 218, Exacta: 385. Favourite: Santorino. Owners: Mr. Santhosh G, Mr. Francis Arun Kumar, Mr. Nirmal Singh and Mr. Mohd. Javeed Ghatala. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

6. S.M. RAMAKRISHNA RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY: SMITHSONIAN (Darshan) 1, Queen Spirit (Akshay K) 2, Montelena (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Crown Consort (Suraj) 4. 1, 1 and 1/2. 1m, 13.79s. ₹119 (w), 19, 15 and 17 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 45, FP: 1,191, Q: 340, Trinella: 4,447, Exacta: 4,801. Favourite: Crown Consort. Owner and trainer: Mr. Aravind Ganapathy.

7. STAYERS TRIAL STAKES: SILVARIUS (S. John) 1, Evaldo (Akshay K) 2, Fire Power (Srinath) 3 and Ruling Goddess (Darshan) 4. 3-3/4, 6-1/4 and 5-1/4. 2m, 33.42s. ₹37 (w), 12 and 12 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 29, FP: 107, Q: 33, Trinella: 435, Exacta: 1,177. Favourite: Evaldo. Owners: Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, Mr. Sanjay Datta Gupta and Mr. Shomenath Roy Chowdhury. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

8. JOG FALLS PLATE (DIV. I): NIKOLINA (S. John) 1, Aherne (Darshan) 2, Air Display (Vivek) 3 and Mystical Merkabah (Kiran Rai) 4. 1-3/4, 5 and Nose. 1m, 26.25s. ₹24 (w), 13, 29 and 33 (p), SHP: 86, THP: 90, FP: 315, Q: 203, Trinella: 2,096, Exacta: 8,104. Favourite: Nikolina. Owners: Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane, Mr. N.C. Arun, Mr. M.P. Vikram and Mr. Rohan Vijayendra. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

9. ELLORA CAVES PLATE (DIV. I): CLASSIC CHARM (Darshan) 1, Hope Island (S. John) 2, Speaking Of Stars (Salman K) 3 and Beldona (Sai Kiran) 4. 1-1/2, 3/4 and Shd. 1m, 27.15s. ₹61 (w), 16, 16 and 22 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 58, FP: 206, Q: 111, Trinella: 1,219, Exacta: 4,733. Favourite: Beldona. Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

Jacktpot: ₹23,989 (three tkts.); Runner-up: 1,233 (25 tkts.); Treble (i): 101 (42 tkts.); (ii): 1,838 (five tkts.); (iii): 1,056 (17 tkts.).

Prime Volleyball League gets underway today

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The second season of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League (PVL) will commence at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

Eight teams will compete in the league, with defending champion Kolkata Thunderbolts taking on Bengaluru Torpedoes in the tournament opener.

The semifinals and final will be held at Kochi in the first week of February.

Bengaluru will host matches until January 12, after which matches will be held at Hyderabad and Kochi. Mumbai Meteors, led by A. Karthik, is the new team in the fray.

PVL CEO Joy Bhattacharjya stated that the stakes are high, given that the league champion will earn a berth in the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship. "The club world championship will be hosted by India for two years, so this will bring a lot of attention to the sport here," Bhattacharjya stated in a press conference here on Friday.

Bengaluru Torpedoes captain Pankaj Sharma stated that his team is looking forward to drawing on home support.

"We are expecting big support from the home crowd. There is pressure, but we have had good preparation and training," Pankaj said.

You are my new hero: Gavaskar tells Lakshya

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A star-struck Lakshya Sen couldn't believe his eyes when Sunil Gavaskar dropped in at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) in Bengaluru to meet him and the youngsters.

The 73-year-old legendary cricketer paid a visit to the academy during a regular trip to the city on Thursday.

Gavaskar posted a picture with Lakshya on Instagram saying "My new badminton hero Lakshya Sen, after the one and only Prakash Padukone."

"It feels good to hear such things from such big personalities. Honestly, I was too star stuck to react," said Lakshya.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Gurpreet.TWITTER/BENGALURUFC

Gurpreet extends his Bengaluru FC contract

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has signed a five-year extension to his contract with Bengaluru FC, the club announced on Friday. The goalkeeper, who joined the club in 2017, will now have a deal that runs until the end of the 2027-28 season. The 31-year-old has made over a hundred appearances for the club and was part of the title-winning squad in 2018-19. In addition to the Indian Super League, the custodian has also won the Super Cup (2018) and the Durand Cup in 2022, and is a two-time Golden Glove winner.

Pratik excels for Youth CC

S.M. Pratik starred for Youth CC as it thrashed YMCA CC (2) by 337 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division league.

The scores: Lions CC 296 in 49.4 overs (M. Vinod Kumar 32, Gautham R. Reddy 39, B.T. Sanju 69, H.C. Narayanaswamy 36, S. Manoj Kumar 32 n.o., Venky 37, K. Gagan Sai 4/32, Godaram Gehlot 3/41) bt Dooravani Cricketers (2) 262/9 in 50 overs (Saharsh M. Reddy 60, Mayank C. Jain 48, M.P. Shashank 50, Suresh Ramanjunappa 29, M. Vinod Kumar 4/45, Shri Bhagawan Singh 3/41).

Youth CC 378 in 50 overs (Amogh R. Shetty 144, Aden Mark D' Souza 39, Pranam Seetharama Achar 101) bt YMCA CC (2) 41 in 13.5 overs (S.M. Prathik 7/14).

Kengeri Cricketers 214 in 49.2 overs (Krish Kumar Jha 29, K.S. Mokhit 76, Arpit Baid 29 n.o., H.S. Shashidhar 3/38, B.S. Chethan 3/30) lost to Eminent Cricketers 217/5 in 24.4 overs (P. Dinesha 128, K.Y. Arjun 36 n.o., Aishik Banerjee 3/39).

Huttons CC 272/8 in 50 overs (Napa Ashok 51, M. Pranav 38, B. Krithin 63, Sasi 28, Huzaifa M. Bagi 45 n.o., Vivek Kumar Singh 3/34) bt Canara Union CC 170 in 35.4 overs (N. Harshavardhan 25, Mohammed Azharuddin 29, R. Bhishaj 3/39).

Young CA, Kolar 277 in 50 overs (R. Harish Karthik 41, A. Pavan Kumar 63, A. Harshal 32, K. Venu Madhava Pai 33, S. Nithin 29, Rishikesh 3/44, Divyang Jain 3/36) lost to BUCC (2) 282/6 in 44.2 overs (T. Sathish 54, M. Hemankith Reddy 31, Divyang Jain 30, Vipin Kumar 68 n.o., Abhijeet Singh 29 n.o.).

Chamarajpet CC 425/8 in 50 overs (D. Shiva Kumar 170, M.N. Praveen 92, Vishruth Uday Krishna 52, Sarveet Dubey 33, Mithun 32, V. Shreyas 3/68) bt Central College CC 173 in 35.3 overs (Tejesh M. Pole 46, Md. Waseem 68, Mithun 3/34, Sarveet Dubey 3/40).

Deepak nets two as V. Raja HC wins easily

Deepak scored a brace as V. Raja Hockey Club blanked Jude Felix Hockey Academy 5-0 in the KSHA Super Division hockey league here on Friday.

The results: Rainbow 2 (M. Karthick 24, 29) bt Metro 1 (Nagarjun 20); V. Raja HC 5 (Deepak 7, 13, Praveen Kumar 29, Deepak Kumar 41, Radhey Shyam 44) bt Jude Felix HA 0.

Facile win for Sree Gajanana

Sree Gajanana FC beat South India FC by a comfortable 3-0 margin in the BDFA A-division league here on Friday.

The results: Sree Gajanana FC 3 (Harish K. Kodahandapani 40+1, N. Sivasubramanian 43, R. Manivannan 76) bt South India FC 0; South United FC 1 (Md. Altab Hussain 32) bt BTM FC 0.

Archery trials

The Karnataka Amateur Archery Association will conduct trials on February 12 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium to select the team for the Senior Nationals to be held in Gujarat from March 9. Entries close on February 10. Call: 080-22275656.